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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

1 October Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Amman Summit, Peace Conference *[QNA]* 3
On Closure of Washington Office *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 3
PLO's Qaddumi Meets Shevardnadze, Others at UN *[Sanaa VOP]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Libyan Official Holds Economic Talks 4
Tunisia's Social Minister Meets With Bendjedid 4
Meets With Brahimi 4
Messaadia Receives Egyptian NPUG Official 4

Chad

Libyan Overflights of Wour, Zouar Noted 4

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Meets With Lebanese President 4
40 Syrian Pilots Reportedly Sent To Aid Libya 5
AL-AKHBAR on Meeting With Islamic Groups *[27 Sep]* 5

Libya

Arab Nations Threaten To Break With France 6
Spokesman Denies Overflights of Chad 6
Habre Termed Cause of Chad Epidemics 6
Junblatt Meets Al-Qadhdhafi, Views Talks 7
Talks Noted; Office Opened *[VOM]* 7
Visitors Depart 30 Sep 7
JANA Editor Views OPEC Overproduction 7

Sudan

Trade, Defense Talks With Libya Continue 7
Minister of State for Defense on Libyan Ties *[JANA]* 8
Al-Mahdi Statement on Forming New Government 8
Al-Mirghani Reaffirms Support for Kuwait *[KUNA]* 8
Prime Minister Receives Ugandan Envoy, Message 8

Tunisia

Sfar Interviewed on Fundamentalists' Trial *[Paris]* 9
Social Affairs Minister on Ties With Libya *[JANA]* 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Inter-Gulf Affairs

5 Gunboats Attack 2 Japanese Tankers *[Monte Carlo]* 11

Bahrain

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives 30 Sep 11
Meets With Amir 11
Departs for Doha 1 Oct 11

Kuwait

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives 30 Sep *[Amman]* 12
Holds Talks, Departs 12
CSSR Army Deputy Commander Begins Visit 12

PDRY

Soviet General Lizichev Arrives 28 Sep 12
Meets Defense Official 12
Visits Military College 13

Qatar

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives 1 Oct 13

Saudi Arabia

Jordan's Husayn Ends Visit, Departs 13

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih, PDRY's Al-'Attas Confer 13
President Meets Ethiopian Counterpart 13

IRAQ

Official Talks With SFRY Begin in Baghdad 15
Saddam, Ljubicic Discuss UN Resolution 15
'Aziz Meets With Saudi Foreign Minister at UN 15
Meets With Hungarian, ROK Ministers 15
RCC Decides To Abolish Ministry of Youth 15
Youth Minister Relieved of Post 16
Further on Gulf War Combat Operations 16
Lloyds Confirms Iranian Ships Hit 16
Communique No 2,852 16
Iranian Tankers Fall to 6 16
'Large Maritime Target' Hit 17

ISRAEL

Peres Discusses Meeting With PRC Counterpart 18
Shamir Comments on Meeting 18
Shamir Briefs Likud on Shultz Visit Agenda 18
Editorial Comments on Upcoming Shultz Visit *[THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Sep]* 19
Shamir Criticizes 'Cold Peace' With Egypt *[HA'ARETZ 1 Oct]* 20
Malta Initiates Restoration of Relations 20
Asked to Accredit Ambassador *[THE JERUSALEM POST 30 Sep]* 20
Peres Comments After Shultz Meeeting at UN 20

Peres Calls on U.S. Jews To Support Conference 21
Shamir Pleased With Magarik USSR Exit Visa 21
Peres Distorting Soviet Position on Conference *[AL-SHA'B 25 Sep]* 21
Zaq Commentary on Peres-Sheverdnadze Talks *[MA'ARIV 28 Sep]* 22
Visiting Soviet Journalists Comment on Ties *[THE JERUSALEM POST 29 Sep]* 23
Military Sources Estimate Gulf War Casualties 24
Likud Planning To Oust Labor After Holidays *[HA'ARETZ 29 Sep]* 24
IDF Begins 2-Year Draft For 'Special' Groups *[AL HAMISHMAR 28 Sep]* 25
Village Leagues Jordan Initiative Criticized 25

JORDAN

King Husayn leaves for Oman 'Working Visit' 26
Dudin Welcomes Shultz Visit as 'Opportunity' *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 30 Sep]* 26
Cabinet Approves Financing of W. Bank Projects *[AL-RA'Y 27 Sep]* 26

LEBANON

Al-Jumayyil, Qaddumi Discuss Arab Summit *[VOL]* 27
Phalangist Party 'Conflict' in 'Full Swing' *[VOM]* 27
5 Officials Reportedly Resign *[VOM]* 27
SSNP Reportedly To Dispatch Fighters to Libya *[RFL]* 27
Labor Federation Decides on 'General Strike' 27
Paqraduni News Conference on Nation's Crisis *[RFL]* 28

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

PDPA Elects Revolutionary Council President 32
Keshtmand Proposes Najib 32
Najib Elected President 32
Najib Acceptance Speech 33
'Abdol Wakil Addresses UN General Assembly 33
Confers With Counterparts 34

India

Reportage on Natwar Singh's UN Activities 34
Notes Fiji Coup 34
Meets With Shultz 34
Talks with Wu Xueqian 34
'Terrorists' Kill 9, Wound 3 in Punjab Attack 34
Bombay Naval Security Guards Injured in Clash 34
Pakistan Criticized for Raising Kashmir Issue 35

Iran

2 Ships Attacked in Persian Gulf 35
Musavi Assails Weinberger's Remarks 36
Velayati Message to ICO on U.S. 'Aggression' 36
War Information Headquarters Warns Iraq 36
Defense Personnel 'Neutralized' Arms Embargo 37
Official Assails Ship Reregistration 37
USSR's Vorontsov Receives Envoy to Moscow 37
Majlis Speaker Praises FRG Position on Gulf 37
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Romanian Envoy 38
Report on Argentine Trade Official's Visit 38
Shipping Accord Planned 38
Delegation Departs 30 Sep 39
Saudi Charge Summoned Over Mecca Corpses 39

Tehran Assails 'Explosive' U.S. Policies 39
Reportage on Combat Operations Against Iraq 40
Communique No 2,975 40
Reprisal Shelling on Iraqi Industries 40

Pakistan

Spokesman Reiterates Stance on Nuclear Issue 41
President To Visit Jordan, Turkey 4 Oct 41

Sri Lanka

Interim Administrative Council Announced 41
Related Legislation Discussed *[Delhi]* 41
Membership Changed *[Delhi]* 42
LTTE Demand Rejected *[Delhi]* 42
Lands Minister Interviewed on Resettlement 42

1 October Middle East and South Asia Review

LD011249 [Editorial report]

Gulf Conflict

Shipping Attacks—Five unidentified gunboats attacked two Japanese oil tankers with gunfire and rockets during the night of 30 September, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The attack was mentioned by IRNA, which cited a disclosure by "informed Navy sources" that two ships had sent out radio messages announcing they were hit. In Baghdad, a military statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio announced that Iraqi aircraft scored an "accurate and effective" hit on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast early 1 October. Oil sources in Vienna disclosed earlier that the number of Iranian oil tankers operating between Khark Island and other Iranian ports has fallen by two-thirds as a result of recent Iraqi air strikes, INA reported.

In other action, an Iranian military communique stated that Iranian planes bombed targets in northern Iraq early 30 September, according to IRNA. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio asserted that five Iraqi civilians were killed in further Iranian shelling of Basra. An Iranian military spokesman cited by IRNA subsequently warned that Iran will henceforth respond to Iraqi attacks on Iranian economic, industrial, or residential targets by dealing "crushing blows" at Baghdad and all Iraqi cities, save the four Shi'ite holy centers. Iran's decision to "intensify" deterrent operations follows the death or injury of "hundreds" of Iranian civilians in recent Iraqi air raids, he noted. The 29 September Iraqi raids on Tehran and the Neka power station killed at least 40 people and were followed by power outages, XINHUA disclosed in a report from the Iranian capital.

Iranian Diplomacy—Iranian leaders think that U.S. policy is being conducted by "ignorant and arrogant" individuals who are "dragging Europe behind them," Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in remarks to the the FRG ambassador reported by Tehran radio. However, Iran is "satisfied" with the positions adopted by the FRG, which acts in an "intelligent" manner, he told the West German envoy. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also commended the FRG's "sensible step in not handing over the Lebanese to the Americans," adding that another "sensible move" by the FRG will help secure the release of the second FRG hostage in Lebanon. According to the radio, the FRG ambassador conveyed his government's thanks for Iranian assistance in securing the release of German hostages in Lebanon, and he also welcomed Iran's "positive stance" on Security Council Resolution 598.

Iran's ambassador to Moscow held talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov 29 September, Tehran radio noted, adding that the two sides discussed plans proposed at the UN Security Council, regional issues, and bilateral cooperation. In another development, IRNA reported that Iran and Argentina have agreed to draw up an agreement to boost "shipping cooperation."

Afghanistan

PDPA General Secretary Najib's election as president of the Revolutionary Council was announced by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand in a speech broadcast by Kabul radio. The chairman of the Council of Ministers told the Revolutionary Council that "the present complicated situation in the country" was the reason for Najib's new position. Keshtmand added that Acting President Haji Muhammad Chamkani was returned to his former post of first vice president of the Revolutionary Council.

The Afghan press agency *Bakhtar* noted that in the future, the DRA leader will be known once again as "Najibullah" instead of the previously accepted rendering "Najib".

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jordanian King Husayn continued his tour of Gulf states for consultations in preparation for an 8 November Arab summit, Amman radio reported. During talks with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the two leaders discussed their countries' "identical views" that a unified Arab stand could contribute to ending the Iran-Iraq war, the radio said. The Jordanian monarch then traveled to Manama where he and Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salam Al Khalifah "comprehensively assessed" Arab and regional affairs in an "atmosphere of understanding," WAKH reported. The king left Bahrain for Qatar, the agency added.

Iraq

Apology to Turkey—The ambassador to Turkey formally expressed Iraq's "regret" over a 23 September bombing during which 3 Hakkari villagers were killed and 18 wounded, Ankara radio reported, noting that Iraq pledged to take steps to prevent a recurrence and indicated its willingness to compensate the victims.

Youth Ministry Abolished—The RCC decided to abolish the Youth Ministry and delegated its responsibilities to the Higher Education Ministry and other existing governmental organs, INA announced. The youth minister was relieved of his post and appointed an adviser to the RCC Popular Organizations Office, the agency added.

Libya

Chad Overflights Issue—Libyan aircraft have made no "sorties over Chadian territory" since the declaration of a cease-fire, according to a Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by JANA. The statement also stressed

that Libya will take no action that might be construed as a cease-fire violation, and it specifically criticized AFP for "persistently" disseminating "unfounded news."

Relations With PSP—In remarks reported by Tripoli radio, Lebanese PSP leader Walid Junblatt declared that the transfer of "Arab revolutionary forces" to Libya falls "within the framework of defending the headquarters of the pan-Arab leadership." He added that, in view of France's history in Lebanon, the PSP has the "right to fight her" anywhere in the Arab world. The PSP leader made his comments following a meeting with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi during which they discussed the situation in the Arab world, especially Lebanon, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported. The PSP has opened an office in Libya, the clandestine noted.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in a press statement to *Al-Watan*, said he would not agree to PLO representation at an international conference on the Middle East "within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation." He attributed this to Jordan's suspension of coordination with the PLO. 'Arafat added, however, that relations with Jordan are "good."

On the situation in southern Lebanon, 'Arafat accused Israel of preparing "a hit list for the assassination of 10 Palestinian leaders." As for the recent agreement to settle the camps issue, he said the Amal movement has so far "not abided by anything."

Lebanon

The clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported further indications of conflict within the Phalangist Party, stating that another Political Bureau member and five department heads have submitted their resignations. The radio cited information that Lebanese Forces (LF) commander Samir Ja'ja' has moved his militia into a number of mountain areas in order to intervene on behalf of Phalangist leader George Sa'adah.

In Paris, LF deputy commander Karim Paqraduni told journalists that Lebanese Christians need to unify around one candidate for the next presidential election, adding that the LF does not plan to unilaterally nominate its own candidate. Speaking at a news conference broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon, Paqraduni stressed that both President Amin al-Jumayyil and the LF agree on the need to oust "all occupiers" from Lebanese territory, and he also accused Syria of seeking to annex areas it controls in north Lebanon.

Israel-PRC

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian held the first "official" bilateral talks at the foreign ministers level, Jerusalem radio reported from the United Nations. While the PRC declined to establish diplomatic relations unless Israel "changes its policies," it was agreed that the governments will continue their bilateral contacts, the radio noted.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on Amman Summit, Peace Conference

JN011105 Doha QNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] Doha, 1 Oct (QNA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the PLO will attend the Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman at the beginning of November. He noted that there are no obstacles preventing the PLO from attending this summit. In a statement to the Qatari *Al-Rayah*paper published today, 'Arafat said that the summit agenda will not merely include the Iraq-Iran war, as happened at the recent Arab League Council meetings in Tunis, but will also include other major issues, such as the Palestinian question and the situation in Lebanon. 'Arafat noted that the PLO will submit a comprehensive Palestinian working paper on the Palestinian question's most pressing points and ways to resolve them.

'Arafat said that he believed there is a possibility Syria will attend this summit. However, this depends on the outcome of the current contacts His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan is holding in the Arab arena to prepare for the summit. Answering a question about the possibility of discussing Egypt's return to the Arab ranks at this summit, 'Arafat said that despite the difficulties surrounding this issue, it is an important one and can be discussed at the summit.

Regarding Palestinian-Egyptian relations, 'Arafat affirmed that these relations are currently at their best and that Egypt's stands on the Palestinian question are very close to those of the PLO.

Commenting on an international conference for peace in the Middle East, Yasir 'Arafat affirmed that the conference will be convened before the end of this year in light of the recent agreement between the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state and the expected Reagan-Gorbachev summit. The latter will consolidate efforts to convene this conference. He alos said that Palestinian representation at the conference will be determined by the PLO. However, he expressed the PLO's willingness to participate in the conference within a joint Arab delegation led by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. 'Arafat said there is a possibility that direct negotiations or dialogue may be held during the sessions of the international conference for peace in the Middle East.

'Arafat praised the Soviet stand on the PLO and the Soviet insistence on the PLO as a principal party to an international conference despite what has been said about dialogues taking place between Israeli and Soviet officials. Regarding what has been recently said about Palestinian-Israeli contacts, 'Arafat asserted that PNC resolutions did not prohibit such contacts. He affirmed that this dialogue will affect the stands of Israelis in favor of the Palestinian people's cause.

On the situation in the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, 'Arafat stressed the importance of the recent Sidon agreement between the PLO and the Lebanese Unification and Liberation Front which includes the Amal Movement. He also affirmed the importance of implementing this agreement and the importance of lifting the siege on the camps and rebuilding them. He affirmed that the PLO forces will not withdraw from these camps and that the Amal Movement should rethink its stands on the PLO. 'Arafat warned of the possibility that the Zionist enemy may embark on a new invasion of southern Lebanon to destroy the Palestinian military presence in the refugee camps. However, he affirmed that the PLO is capable of confronting any aggression.

On Closure of Washington Office

JN281941 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said that the U.S. Government committed a grave mistake in its decision to close the PLO Information Office in Washington. In a statement published in Sanaa yesterday, Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed that the U.S. decision will not in any way affect PLO activities. Brother Abu 'Ammar said that the PLO will retain its prestige with all who aspire for peace, justice, and freedom.

PLO's Qaddumi Meets Shevardnadze, Others at UN

JN281712 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has held a series of meetings with the heads of diplomatic missions and foreign ministers of several member states at the United Nations in the past 2 days.

Brother Abu al-Lutf met for 1 hour with USSR Foreign Minister Comrade Eduard Shevardnadze. Comrade Shevardnadze stressed the need to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East. He also stressed that the Palestinian people are free to choose their representatives. He said that the Palestinian people have chosen their representative, the PLO, and no one has the right to interfere in this. He said that the USSR insists on this firm stand. He added that the PLO has the right to participate in the conference as an independent party and to choose its form of representation in the conference.

Brother Abu al-Lutf also met with Italian Foreign Minister Guilio Andreotti and discussed with him developments in the Palestinian question and the need to adopt a more developed stand by the UN General Assembly toward the this question. Brother Abu al-Lutf also met with the foreign ministers of France, Ireland, Japan, Spain, Portugal, the GDR, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, and Luxembourg. Abu al-Lutf is scheduled to meet with the Australian foreign minister and with Britain's permanent UN representative.

Algeria

Libyan Official Holds Economic Talks

LD010420 Algiers Domestic Service Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Expansion of the bases for economic integration and the development of trade between Algeria and Libya were at the center of talks between Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi and Ahmad Fathi ibn Shatwan, the Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Industry. Shatwan talked as well with Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy, chemical, and petrochemical industries, concerning cooperation in the chemical and petrochemical fields and possibilities for their development. He also held talks with Zitouni Messaoudi, minister of light industry, on developing cooperation in the industrial field.

Tunisia's Social Minister Meets With Bendjedid

LD302028 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Excerpt] At the Presidential Palace today, Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, received Mr Hedi Baccouche, social affairs minister, who handed him a message from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba.

The talks, which included Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and the official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, and the ambassadors of the two countries, centered on the current consultations between Algeria and Tunisia concerning the consolidation of bilateral relations and construction of the Arab Maghreb.

After the meeting, Mr Hedi Baccouche gave the following statement:

[Begin recording] According to the traditions of dialogue and consultations between the two countries, I conveyed a message from the supreme combatant, President Habib Bourguiba, to his brother, President Chadli Bendjedid.

It was a good opportunity to review positive developments in all spheres of our bilateral relations. We talked about the results of the recent Tunisia-Libya talks, which led to an agreement resolving the situation of Tunisians returning from fraternal Libya and giving them their legitimate rights. With this agreement, we removed a major obstacle in the way of developing Tunisia-Libya relations, took an important step towards amicability and fraternity, and opened the way for establishing a solid Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Meets With Brahimi

LD010340 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Abdelhamid Brahimi, prime minister and alternate member of the Political Bureau, has received Hedi Baccouche [Tunisian social affairs minister]. Maghreb cooperation was the focus of talks between the two sides. A meeting was also held between Mohamed Nabi, minister of social protection, and Hedi Baccouche. The meeting was part of an effort to bolster cooperation between Algeria and Tunisia in the social field.

Messaadia Receives Egyptian NPUG Official

LD010427 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] At the party's house yesterday afternoon, Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and the official in charge of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, received Khalid Muhyi al-Din, secretary general of Egypt's NPUG. The meeting was attended by Sadek Zouaten, member of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat and the official in charge of the Council of Friendship and Solidarity. Following a review of the historical ties between the two peoples, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on the main international issues, particularly those related to the Arab homeland.

Chad

Libyan Overflights of Wour, Zouar Noted

AB301804 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1850 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Libya continues to overfly Chadian airspace with impunity, despite the recommendations of the Lusaka meeting of the OAU ad hoc committee on 24 September. The Libyan Air Force again flew over the town of Wour at 0300 this morning. It also flew over Zouar at 1520, 0930, and 1540.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Meets With Lebanese President

NC302054 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] New York, 30 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil today. This was Dr 'Abd al-Majid's second meeting with the Lebanese president since his arrival in New York. During the meeting, they completed their review of various developments connected with the Lebanese issue and exchanged views. They also coordinated their positions on the Lebanese issue and on the current situation in the Middle East.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid reaffirmed to the Lebanese president Egypt's stand, which urges all parties without exception to take their hands off Lebanon. This would give the fraternal Lebanese people a chance to dress their wounds and to unite ranks in a sincere national reconciliation that would restore security and peace in that country.

The Egyptian foreign minister also emphasized Egypt's eagerness to preserve Lebanon's independence and sovereignty over every inch of its territory. Dr 'Abd al-Majid further stressed his country's avidness for Lebanon to resume its normal life and its Arab and distinctive cultural role.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid also met with all of the foreign ministers from the Islamic states this evening during a working dinner hosted by the Kuwaiti foreign minister, who is currently leading the Islamic group.

It is worth noting that Egypt will participate in the Islamic states foreign ministers meeting, which will convene in New York on Thursday on the periphery of the UN General Assembly meetings. The ministers will discuss and examine current issues of the Islamic world, particularly the Palestinian issue, Jerusalem, and the Iraq-Iran war.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid met with a number of foreign ministers from nonaligned states at noon today during a working luncheon hosted by the Indian foreign minister. During these talks, the ministers examined various political and economic issues affecting nonaligned states.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid also met with the PRC foreign minister within the context of the consultations and contacts he is holding with the foreign ministers of the world, particularly the foreign ministers of the five permanent UN Security Council members. These consultations are focused on current developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian issue, as well as efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war and to expedite the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

40 Syrian Pilots Reportedly Sent To Aid Libya

NC291346 Cairo MENA in Arabic GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Beirut, 29 Sep (MENA)—Highly-placed Arab political sources revealed today that Syria has sent 40 pilots to Libya in the last few days due to an urgent request from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who responded promptly. Meanwhile, the Syrian president sent Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Tripoli to discuss Libya's military situation with Col al-Qadhdhafi.

Khaddam returned to Damascus following a visit to Libya last Saturday [26 September]. He presented a report to President al-Asad on the military collapse experienced by the Libyan forces in Chad, as well as the extensive discontent that pervaded the Libyan Air Force following its large military losses, which amounted to over 1,700 Libyan soldiers killed during Chad's attack on a Libyan military base several weeks ago.

The political sources affirmed that the 40 Syrian pilots are now at the Libyan base of Baninah and are flying reconnaissance sorties over Chadian territory. This, they say, means that Col al-Qadhdhafi might carry out an air strike on Chad.

An official spokesman for the National Front for the Salvation of Libya had earlier stated that the Syrian military presence in Libya had recently increased and that the Syrian military personnel come directly under Col al-Qadhdhafi and are used to watch over the Libyan pilots. However, they are not subject to the jurisdiction of the military areas where they are stationed.

AL-AKHBAR on Meeting With Islamic Groups

JN281905 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Sep 87 p 6

[By Muhammad Za'za' and Said Zaghlul Siraj]

[Excerpts] Asyut—Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has met with members of Islamic groups in Asyut, holding a 3-hour dialogue with them at their headquarters in the Al-Jam'iyah al-Shar'iyah Mosque. He promised to complete the mosque's construction and to give them two Islamic libraries. The minister asserted that there is no quarrel between the government and Muslim youth and said that there are 70,000 mosques in Egypt for worship and teaching religion. He added that 3,000 ulema will be appointed to propagate Islam and 10 million pounds will be allocated for this propagation. The minister, the mufti of the Republic, and the governor of Asyut visited four churches in the governorate to emphasize national unity. The bishop of Asyut said: The New Testament says, "Blessed are the people of Egypt."

Speaking at the grand religous conference in Manfalut—which he chaired and which was attended by Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, mufti of the Republic, and Major General Mamduh Zaki, governor of Asyut—Awqaf Minister Muhammad Mahjub said: The leaders of Al-Azhar, of the propagation of Islam, and of Awqaf have come along with the groups of those who call for God's religion and to explain to Muslims matters regarding their religion. The people of Upper Egypt are known to be religious, zealous in guarding their religion, and very concerned about giving their youth a sound religious upbringing. We have come to explain the true concepts of Islam and to expound through opinions and arguments the correct Islam, countering argument with argument, and evidence with evidence. We have come to declare that there is no quarrel between the government and Muslim youth, for the youth are our sons and Egypt's hope now and in the future.

The youth asked several questions, including one on why the government is not applying Islamic canon law. The minister replied that the masses should apply Islamic canon law on themselves and that the government's application of Islamic canon law is on the way. He said that civil law is 100 percent compatible with Islamic canon law. As for transactions with banks and investment bonds, these are being studied by the Islamic Research Foundation in Al-Azhar, while there is no usury in Islamic banks, he added.

The minister said: Islam has clearly defined relations between Muslims and non-Muslims. Egypt is the country of religion and faith and all religions call for love, amity, and tolerance. God has blessed Egypt with Al-Azhar to guard Islam and its teachings, which say that the non-Muslim people of the Book are under our protection and Islam has assured the security of their property, honor, and holy places. Those who by their behavior are harming Islam are acting contrary to Islam and Islamic tolerance, he said.

Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, the mufti of the Republic, affirmed: I urge Muslim youth to adhere to their religion and its teachings and to learn religious sciences from correct and sound sources. The youth must refer to competent Muslim scholars to understand religion correctly. If one falls sick, he goes to the doctor because he is certain of his knowledge. If one wants to build a house, he draws on the experience of an engineer. How, then, can one who wants to build himself on religion not refer to the Muslim scholars to make sure that one is on the correct path? [Passage omitted]

The awqaf minsiter, the mufti of the Republic, and the Al-Azhar and Awqaf scholars answered questions from members of the audience on matters of religion until late in the night. The scholars asserted that differences among Muslims appeared after 1974 following Egypt's victory in the October war. The East and the West began to hatch plots against Egypt with the aim of creating sedition among Muslims in Egypt after 1,400 years of Islam. However, Egypt is victorious and united, God willing.

On Friday morning, the Awqaf minister, the mufti, the governor of Asyut, and senior religious leaders visited the Coptic Orthodox bishopric. They were received by Father Mikha'il, the bishop of Asyut, who welcomed them and said: We welcome their eminences and assure them of our confidence in the political leadership's understanding, awareness, wisdom, and good judgment. Love binds us together and matters are not judged by aberrant acts. [Passage omitted]

Libya

Arab Nations Threaten To Break With France

LD301741 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] It has been learned that the French Government has received official warnings from Arab countries that the latter will sever relations with France if it persists with its hostile policies against the Great Jamahiriyah and its participation with the United States and lackey Habre in confronting the Libyan Arab people for no reason.

French ambassadors to Arab countries have been summoned by Arab foreign ministries to be informed of this warning.

Spokesman Denies Overflights of Chad

LD301230 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1126 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, 30 Sep (JANA)—A spokesman for the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison gave the following statement in reply to a question addressed by JANA concerning an AFP report that Gabonese President Omar Bongo had sent a message to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi:

First, there is no truth whatsoever in the story that we have received a message from El Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon, concerning the flight of our aircraft over Chad.

Second, there is no truth whatsoever in the claims circulated by some quarters to the effect that Libyan aircraft have overflown Chadian territory.

We affirm that our aircraft have not carried out any sorties over Chadian territory since our declaration of the cease-fire, and we abide by this. We have not and will not do anything that constitutes a violation of the cease-fire.

Third, some foreign agencies, at the forefront of which is AFP, have persistently spread allegations and circulated unfounded reports with the aim of distorting the truth of the Jamahiriyah's stance and in the service of certain objectives that are no secret to anyone.

Habre Termed Cause of Chad Epidemics

LD301849 Tripoli JANA in English 1730 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 30, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—News emanating from Chad says that dangerous epidemics have now become on the loose in the area of Ndjamena, Abeche, Abouji [name as received], Bardai, Wadi Wour and Bahr el Ghazal.

The above news points out that some of these epidemics are whooping cough, yellow fever and leukaemia. Several people have died of these diseases and death now awaits people en masse because of the spread of these epidemics.

It has been confirmed to the Chadian people that puppet Habre and his clique are to be held responsible for the desperate future facing the Chadian people owing to the spread of epidemics and the mass-murder, apart from the repression that escalates against this people.

Undoubtedly, it is time the Chadians got rid of these mishaps apart from delivering Chad from this bleak future that threatens Chad and its people.

Junblatt Meets Al-Qadhdhafi, Views Talks

LD301715 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother Walid Junblatt, leader of the PSP in Lebanon. In a statement following their meeting, Brother Junblatt noted that the response of the Arab revolutionary forces and their arrival in the Great Jamahiriyah come within the framework of the commitment to defend the headquarters of the Arab revolutionary forces' pan-Arab leadership.

As the colonialist, Atlantic alliance cooperates in attacking the Arab people and the peoples of the world, he added, so too do the Arab forces—allied within the framework of the pan-Arab leadership—have the right to defend any part of the Arab world. This represents a pan-Arab stand dictated by pan-Arab interests and cannot be considered as hostile to the Chadian people. However, it is by necessity a stand hostile to imperialism and the colonial forces seeking to again return to the Arab world and Africa.

Brother Junblatt added in his statement to JANA that France had intervened colonially in Lebanon and fought the sons of our people. This gives us the right to fight this country in any part of the Arab world, a legitimate action in self-defense and in defense of national existence.

Talks Noted; Office Opened

NC302117 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has received PSP leader Walid Junblatt in Tripoli, Libya. Junblatt has been visiting the Libyan Jamahiriyah at the head of a PSP delegation since last Sunday.

It has been reported that the discussions between leader Al-Qadhdhafi and Walid Junblatt centered on the Arab situation in general and the situation in Lebanon in particular. The discussions also dealt with developments between Libya and Chad. In this connection, the two conferees examined the U.S.-French imperialist onslaught to which the Jamahiriyah is being subjected. They also reviewed developments in the Gulf in light of the U.S. and European military concentrations there. Leader Al-Qadhdhafi and Walid Junblatt also studied ways to confront the pressures facing the Arab nation during the present delicate phase through which it is passing.

During the meeting, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Walid Junblatt discussed the historic pan-Arab step taken by the PSP and nationalist parties with their dispatch of fighters to Libya.

The discussions revealed that the views of the two sides are identical and confirmed the depth of the alliance between the PSP and the 1 September Revolution.

It has been learned that the PSP has opened an office in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Visitors Depart 30 Sep

LD302156 Tripoli JANA in English 1746 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 30, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The president of the Lebanese Socialist, Progressive Party Walid Junblatt, and his accompanying delegation have left this afternoon after concluding their visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

JANA Editor Views OPEC Overproduction

LD302208 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] A number of OPEC member countries, including Venezuela Kuwait, and the UAE, have raised their oil production above OPEC's production ceiling for members' daily production levels.

JANA's economic editor commented upon this, saying: This negative initiative is a violation of the OPEC Charter and discredits its resolutions. It will only serve OPEC's enemies, who are endeavoring to disturb the unity of decisionmaking within the Organization and drive it toward division and fragmentation. The editor continued: Parties, in disregarding the Organization's resolutions, have acted according to their narrow selfishness and thus ignore the real damage resulting from this posture for the other members and for the Organization itself. These resolutions have grown to be, in view of this situation, lacking in seriousness, respect, and effectiveness.

JANA's economic editor called upon OPEC's statute-abiding members to take a deterrent and conclusive stance toward such violations and attempts to disregard the Organization's unanimity, and stressed that any delay in taking effective and speedy measures to put an end to this situation—as well as similar ones—could push the Organization toward fragmentation and total impotence, a condition that the Organization's enemies long for. This would also provide opportunities for imperialist countries, as well as companies, to single out oil-producing countries and exploit their peoples' resources for low amounts of money.

Sudan

Trade, Defense Talks With Libya Continue

JN281915 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 28 Sep (SUNA)—Today, Libya and Sudan resumed the official talks begun yesterday. Dr Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil, minister of commerce,

cooperation, and supply and acting finance minister, said the talks had dealt with the progress of trade cooperation between the two countries and that the two sides had reviewed the trade protocol signed by them. He added that it was agreed to hold joint meetings for experts in this field to overcome obstacles. He said the two sides had discussed the issue of a joint holding company and the status of Sudanese citizens working in Libya without residence permits. He added that three technical committees were formed in the fields of trade, economy, and transportation. [passage omitted]

Libya and Sudan began their official talks yesterday. Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi led the Sudanese side, while commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, led the Libyan side. The Sudanese delegation includes ministers of commerce, finance, industry, transportation, health, and defense. The Libyan delegation includes secretaries of the People's Committees for Transportation and Economy, technical specialists in the economic field, and officials in charge of the foreign investment company and the Central Libyan Bank. [passage omitted]

Col Abu Bakr Yunis visited the People's Armed Forces headquarters and met with General 'Abd al-'Azim Siddiq, chief of staff and acting commander in chief of the People's Armed Forces. The talks dealt with cooperation between the two armies and ways to promote it. Col Abu Bakr Yunis also met with defense minister [title as received] Major General [retired] Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, who confirmed that the two sides' viewpoints were identical on all the issues discussed. He also stressed that a positive spirit of cooperation had permeated the talks.

Minister of State for Defense on Libyan Ties

LD301954 Tripoli JANA in English 1755 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Fatih [September] 30, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—Major General Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, the Sudanese minister of state for defense has stressed that relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan are firm and strong.

In comments made to JANA, Major General Burmah said that these relations are based on consolidated objectives connected by joint Arab and Islamic aims alongside struggle principles, traditions and customs.

He continues that these relations are firm from times immemorial adding that right since the outset of the outbreak of the people's revolution, they, in the Sudan, have endeavoured to promote these relations. What is going on between Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan reflects the strength of these relations.

He stresses that the sole reply to the enemies of the Sudan and Great Jamahiriyah is the determination to promote these relations apart from concentrating the efforts of the 2 countries to pave more ways connecting them more closely.

Al-Mahdi Statement on Forming New Government

JN301849 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1750 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Sep (SUNA)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will meet tomorrow, Thursday, with representatives of the African Sudanese parties that have recently held meetings with the John Garang movement in Addis Ababa, Kampala, and Nairobi. These parties will clarify their positions during the meeting.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that the government will determine its stand on the mediation efforts being exerted by these parties, the Sudanese Churches Congress, and the neighboring states, with the aim of ending the war in southern Sudan.

In press statements at 1200 today, the prime minister said that consultations on forming the new government are going [word indistinct]. He added that the government will be announced once a final decision regarding the options available is made. He went on to say that the Libyan delegation's current visit delayed steps to announce the new government. The prime minister has disclosed nothing about the new government formula or the date on which the government will be announced.

Al-Mirghani Reaffirms Support for Kuwait

LD301921 Kuwait KUNA in English 1802 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 30 (KUNA)—Supreme Council President Ahmad al-Mirghani Wednesday reaffirmed Sudan's support to Kuwait in the face of any foreign aggression.

Kuwait Ambassador to Sudan Abd al-Aziz Abdallah Sarawi, emerging from a meeting with Al-Mirghani at his office in the Republican Palace here Wednesday, told reporters that the Supreme Council president further affirmed the Kuwait Government's right to take whatever action it sees necessary to protect its maritime trade.

The ambassador added that the meeting also reviewed the developing bilateral relations in all domains.

Prime Minister Receives Ugandan Envoy, Message

JN281811 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 28 Sep (SUNA)—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi received a message today from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on the Ugandan mediation between Sudan and the SPLM. Reiya

Kategaya, Ugandan secretary of state in the prime minister's office, arrived today on a visit scheduled to last for several days. He delivered the message when the Sudanese prime minister received him. Al-Mirghani Sulayman Khalil, acting under secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; Taj al-Sir 'Abbas, director of the African department at the Foreign Ministry; and the Ugandan ambassador in Khartoum also attended the meeting.

A statement by Al-Mahdi said that he has formed a committee to study the message before replying to it the day after tomorrow, Wednesday [30 September]. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Sfar Interviewed on Fundamentalists' Trial

LD301314 Paris Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Rachid Sfar by journalist Dominique Souchier; place not given—live]

[Text] [Souchier] People in Tunisia continue to wonder whether or not President Bourguiba will pardon the two people sentenced to death at the trial of the fundamentalists. This has been the question for 3 days now and this morning I ask it of Tunisian Prime Minister Rachid Sfar. Good day, Prime Minister.

[Sfar] Good day, Mr Souchier.

[Souchier] Mr Rachid Sfar, what answer can you give us this morning to the question: Is a pardon possible?

[Sfar] We will continue to ask ourselves the same question. Tunisia is a state governed by laws and there are time limits to allow for appeals by those convicted. The law provides for these limits and one has 7 days in which to file an appeal. Thus, we have to wait for the outcome of this appeal. It is only then that the dossiers will be presented to the president and only the president can reply to your question. The right to grant a pardon belongs to him personally and no one can answer your question until he makes his decision.

[Souchier] Prime Minister, the question is posed by organizations like Amnesty International and by countries friendly with Tunisia, such as the United States, Saudi Arabia, and France. Isn't all that likely to influence President Bourguiba's decision?

[Sfar] We all know President Bourguiba; his friends know him as well. He is a great statesman who knows his country well and who will make a decision that corresponds with the interests of Tunisia.

[Souchier] You do not rule out the possibility that he may grant pardons or commute the sentences?

[Sfar] You already know the details of the verdicts. You know that those convicted were convicted of well-proven material facts, of criminal actions.

[Souchier] But, Prime Minister, at the trial the Public Ministry called for 90 death sentences; 7 were pronounced, including 5 in absentia. Doesn't that prove people in Tunisia wonder about this as well?

[Sfar] It proves that the courts are independent. It confirms that Tunisia is still a state governed by laws and that it will remain so, as its president wishes.

[Souchier] But, Prime Minister, it is said that even within your government, there is some debate about the proper response to the Islamic fundamentalist threat.

[Sfar] That is inaccurate. The Tunisian Government is unanimous in its support for the president and I assure you that the mass media who make these reports are wrong and we have the impression there is a sort of wish to destabilize us by such statements. The Tunisian Government is united and stands together behind its president.

[Souchier] Well, I ask the head of the Tunisian Government: Do you not fear that excessive repression will open the door to radicalization?

[Sfar] We do not have that sort of repression, as proved by the universal acknowledgement that the court reached its verdict in all serenity.

[Souchier] There are two death sentences.

[Sfar] Listen, we are not the only country to sentence criminals to death.

[Souchier] I know that Islamic Jihad has made some very specific threats against you and other Tunisian leaders if the death sentences are carried out. What is your reply?

[Sfar] Tunisia and Tunisian leaders are indifferent to such blackmail. We will assume our responsibilities as we must. We will protect society in a state of law and order and will defend republican institutions, as is proper.

[Souchier] Excuse me, Prime Minister, if we go beyond that: In your country today, what do you fear most—is it threats by the Islamic fundamentalists or the appetite of the Libyans?

[Sfar] We fear nothing, Mr Souchier. In our country we assume our responsibilities as is proper; we fear nothing. We always take the necessary measures.

[Souchier] I mentioned Libya; you will guess why. It was announced yesterday afternoon that Tunisia is going to resume diplomatic relations with Libya. Is this information accurate or not?

[Sfar] Libya is our neighbor. We wish to improve our relations with our neighbor on a clear basis, that is all. I think that France which is very far from Libya is doing as much. I do not understand why Tunisia should be reproached for seeking to normalize its relations with Libya; this is quite normal.

[Souchier] But there have already been several attempts at normalization with Libya on your part and these have all come to an abrupt end. Well, one wonders whether this time again...

[Sfar, interrupting] It is for that reason that you see we are not hurrying anything, that we are having lengthy discussions this time to try and restore and normalize on much clearer and, we hope, much more solid bases.

[Souchier] This is not another attempt that will come to an abrupt end?

[Sfar] In politics one always tries, one always has to try. One has to try and improve; you know that in politics one must not limit one's horizons.

[Souchier] But only a short while ago people spoke of a threat by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in Tunisia. Do you consider this no longer valid?

[Sfar] We do not want and it is not acceptable to make statements that may be misinterpreted. At any rate, we remain vigilant and we are trying to continue discussions so that the restoration of our relations is made on solid bases and precisely to avoid finding ourselves again in the situations we have found ourselves in previously.

[Souchier] Prime Minister, I know there is another subject you do not like talking about—the post-Bourguiba era. One day, when the time comes and taking into account what is currently taking place in your country, may one not fear the worst for Tunisia?

[Sfar] I would like to say to you first of all that our president is marvelously well. Those who speak to me about the post-Bourguiba era, I will tell them that President Bourguiba may still see two or three prime ministers out.

[Souchier] (?He has already seen four out).

[Sfar] He has trained many militants at his college and these will ensure the stability of Tunisia after him. We have no anxieties on this score and one should not give too much credit to the remarks of the minority opposition we have in Tunisia.

[Souchier] But, Prime Minister, you are well aware of what is often said about your country, that there are too many great men, too much of a political elite for the country, that there is not a vacuum, that there is a surplus, and that one day, inevitably, this will cause problems?

[Sfar] But that is what the president wanted: There is no surplus; we are trying to organize a democratic life that takes account of our realities, a democracy by stages, without haste. We are in the process of learning about democracy of the European type, but we have to take account of our realities. We also have to take account of the fact of the opposition. These are the realities in Tunisia.

[Souchier] Under the Constitution you are the successor to President Bourguiba; do you already feel ready for that task?

[Sfar] That is a question to which, frankly, it is difficult to reply. For the moment I am trying to fulfill my task as prime minister correctly. While I do this, it is up to my president to judge the rest.

[Souchier] You mean that you would be ready if you were asked now?

[Sfar] [Word indistinct] one day to assume a more important responsibility.

[Souchier] Could President Bourguiba ask you to assume this important responsibility?

[Sfar] It is up to him to make an appraisal under the terms provided for in the Constitution.

[Souchier] Prime Minister, thank you.

Social Affairs Minister on Ties With Libya

LD302030 Tripoli JANA in English 1754 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tunis, Al-Fatih [September] 30, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—The Tunisian Minister of Social Affairs Hedi Baccouche has stressed in Tunis that the Libyan Arab-Tunisian relations witness now new dimensions. In comments made to pressmen last Sunday, Mr. Baccouche said that matters had been bypassed in a bid to promote relations and open up ways for establishing brotherly relations between the Libyan Arab and Tunisian people.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

5 Gunboats Attack 2 Japanese Tankers

JN010612 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] We have just learned that five unidentified gunboats attacked two Japanese oil tankers with machine-guns and rockets at dawn today.

The owners of Japanese ships and the Japanese seamen's union will hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss the situation of the Japanese oil tankers in the Gulf.

Bahrain

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives 30 Sep

Meets With Amir

JN301835 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Bahrain this evening as part of his majesty's tour of Arabian Gulf states. His majesty was welcomed at the airport by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrian; His Highness Khalifah ibn Salaman Al Khalifah, Bahraini prime minister; His Highness Shaykh Ahmad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Air Defense Force; their highnesses the shaykhs and ministers; the head of the Amiri Court; the chief of staff; the Jordanian ambassador to Bahrian; members of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions; and senior officials. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn had earlier departed Kuwait. He and his accompanying delegation were seen off by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait; Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; and high-ranking Kuwaiti civic and military officials.

At 1200 today, his majesty held a round of talks with His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Amad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait. During the meeting, they carried out a comprehensive assessment of the overall current situation, the dangers posed to the Arab nation, especially that by the Iraq-Iran war, and the dangers posed to the region's states by this war's continuation. The two fraternal states held identical views on the premise that a unified Arab stand toward the Iraq-Iran war will be highly effective in helping end this conflict.

The latest developments in the Palestine question and the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon also figured prominently in these talks. The two leaders expressed the hope that Arab solidarity, which can be manifested by the convening of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman on 8 November, will be achieved so that the Arabs can cope with the challenges facing them.

The talks, which were interrupted by a working luncheon hosted in his majesty's honor, were attended by the Jordanian delegation accompanying the king. This delegation comprised Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief chamberlain; Staff Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and Al-Sharif Fawwaz ibn 'Abdallah, commander of the Desert Force and the Border Guards.

Kuwait's representatives at the talks included Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; His Highness Shaykh Khalid al-Ahmad al-Jabir, minister of amiri court affairs; Rashid al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Sa'd Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs. [passage omitted]

His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him had departed Jeddah at 1200 today. [passage omitted]

The Jordanian side, led by His Majesty King Husayn, and the Saudi side, led by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, held a 2-hour meeting yesterday evening at Salam Palace in Jeddah. During their meeting, they reviewed urgent issues in the Arab arena and recent regional events and developments, which will be discussed at the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 8 November. During their talks, the two leaders stressed the need to exert the greatest efforts to close ranks so that the task of achieving Arab solidarity becomes possible, since the realization of this objective will enable the Arab nation to cope with the challenges facing it.

The two leaders also discussed the latest developments in the Gulf region. They additionally stressed the need to forge a unified Arab stand that will accelerate efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, whose continuation poses threats to the region's security and stability. [passage omitted]

Departs for Doha 1 Oct

JN010849 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0835 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] Manama, 1 Oct (WAKH)—King Husayn of Jordan departed Manama for Doha this morning following a 2-day visit that was part of his current tour of the GCC states. The Jordanian king was seen off by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain; His Highness Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; and the ministers, officials, and ambassadors accredited to Bahrain. The Jordanian king held talks with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, on bilateral relations and current regional developments, especially the Iraq-Iran war. They also discussed ways of ending this war in light of the recent Security Council resolution to establish peace in the region. The talks additionally covered current

Arab issues and preparations to convene the emergency Arab summit in Amman on 8 November, as well as means of clearing the Arab atmosphere, supporting Arab solidarity, and regional developments and international issues of mutual concern.

Kuwait

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives 30 Sep

JN301513 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait—His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Kuwait this afternoon on the fourth leg of his majesty's tour of the Arabian Gulf. His majesty was accorded an official reception at Kuwait airport led by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks, Departs

LD301632 Kuwait KUNA in English 1445 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 30 (KUNA)—King Husayn of Jordan left here Wednesday following a short visit to Kuwait during which he held talks with H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

King Husayn was seen off at the airport by H.H. the amir, H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah, minister of the Amiri Diwan [court], minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of state for foreign affairs.

Minister of the Amiri Diwan Affairs Khalid al-Ahmad al-Sabah said the Kuwait-Jordanian talks touched on the agenda of the emergency Arab summit, the Iraq-Iran war, current Arab situation and issues of mutual interest.

King Husayn was accompanied by Premier Zayd al-Rifa'i, head of the Royal Diwan Marwan al-Qasim, and a number of ranking officials.

CSSR Army Deputy Commander Begins Visit

LD282150 Kuwait KUNA in English 2000 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 28 (KUNA)—Deputy Commander of the Czech Armed Forces General Chadic arrived here Monday on a visit to the country.

He was received upon arrival by Chief of Staff for the War Operations Department and head of intelligence Brigadier Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah and a number of top Army officers.

The Czech guest will meet with a number of Defense Ministry officials.

PDRY

Soviet General Lizichev Arrives 28 Sep

EA290954 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Comrade Army General Aleksey Dmitriyevich Lizichev, chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, arrived in Aden this morning for a several-day visit to participate in celebrations marking the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Air Force and air defenses.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Lizichev expressed his pleasure at participating with the Air Force and air defenses in their celebration of their founding, within the framework of the firm militant relations linking the two friendly countries' armies.

He was met at the airport by Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, member of the Central Committee, first deputy defense minister, and chief of the general staff; and by Lieutenant Colonel Dr Husayn 'Ali Hassan, member of the Central Committee and chief of the Armed Forces Political Directorate.

Meets Defense Official

EA291949 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, member of the Central Committee, first deputy defense minister, and chief of the general staff, this morning received Comrade Army General Aleksey Dmitryevich Lizichev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy. In an atmosphere of very cordial friendship and comradeship, they discussed aspects of the developing relations between the two friendly armies and methods of further developing them to serve joint aims and principles linking the two friendly countries.

Brother Lieutenant Colonel Dr Husayn 'Ali Hasan, member of the Central Committee and chief of the Armed Forces Political Directorate, this morning received Comrade Aleksey Dmitryevich Lizichev, member of the CPSU Central committee and chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy. In an atmosphere of very cordial friendship and comradeship, they exchanged their expertise and discussed both the developing relations between the two friendly armies' Political Directorates and methods of strengthening them to serve the joint aims and principles that the two friendly armies' party and political action is based upon.

Visits Military College

EA302229 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Comrade Army General Aleksey Dimitriyevich Lizichev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and head of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, this morning visited the Military College and the commanders and staff school.

He was received on his arrival by Brother Major Majid Murshid, member of the Central Committee and first deputy director of the Political Department; and commanders, teaching staff, and Soviet experts employed at the college and the commanders and staff school. During his visit, he heard a detailed explanation of the history, growth, and development of the college and the tasks entrusted to it in preparing and training military cadres, namely officers. He also laid a wreath on the monument to the founder of the CPSU, Vladimir Ilich Lenin, in the square in front of the military college.

This morning the comrade head of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy also paid a visit to the Politburo Hall and the Houses of the Two Martyrs, 'Abd al-Fattah Ismail and 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar. He was informed about the conspiracy and the considerable damage caused to the Houses of the Two Martyrs.

Qatar

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives 1 Oct

JN011104 Doha QNA in Arabic 1058 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Doha, 1 Oct (QNA)—His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Doha from Manama today on a brief visit to the State of Qatar as part of his current tour of the GCC states. His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, led those who welcomed His Majesty King Husayn upon his arrival at Doha International Airport. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Jordan's Husayn Ends Visit, Departs

LD301254 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1135 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 30 Sep (SPA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan departed Jeddah at 1300 today.

He was seen off at Jeddah's King 'Abd al-'Aziz International Airport by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques; His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih, PDRY's Al-'Attas Confer

JN281847 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the southern part of the homeland's Supreme People's Council Presidium, met last night to discuss issues of common concern.

Brother President Salih stressed that the 26 September Revolution marked a spectacular crowning of the struggle of our Yemeni people in the homeland's northern and southern parts against the rule of the imams and colonialism, which worked to dismember the homeland and split its unity. Our people, continued the president, managed through their revolution to fulfill their national will toward realizing their aspirations and yearnings for a prospering, developing, united Yemen. The brother leader declared that our masses in both parts of Yemen will continue to mobilize their resources to realize their aspirations for a reunited homeland, their most cherished goal. He further emphasized that the day of unity is not far off, thanks to the persistent efforts of the devoted elements of our people in both parts of the homeland, who are determined to conquer all obstacles placed by the enemies of unity in their path. [passage omitted]

President Meets Ethiopian Counterpart

JN281634 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Sep 87

[Text] A session of official Yemeni-Ethiopian talks was held at 2030 today under the chairmanship of Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia Central Committee, People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE] president, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

At the beginning of the session, brother leader 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih welcomed President Mengistu and his accompanying delegation, stating: I warmly welcome you on this historic, great occasion, the 25th anniversary of the immortal 26 September Revolution. We are very pleased with the visit of President Mengistu and his accompanying delegation to our country on this dear occasion. He added: This historic visit gives outstanding significance to expanding Yemeni-Ethiopian relations, which we will strenuously and sincerely work to develop in the interests of the neighborly and friendly Yemeni and Ethiopian peoples.

The brother leader stressed that our country and Ethiopia are jointly struggling to attain peace and freedom and to eliminate poverty, ignorance, and backwardness. He pointed out that the Yemeni and Ethiopian revolutions are proceeding along parallel lines to achieve progress and prosperity for their peoples. The brother leader commented: We love peace and bless every step designed to attain this end. We respect neighborliness and have no wish to stir up disturbances with any country. He affirmed that our country's policy is based on mutual respect for the mutual interests of all brotherly and friendly countries. He noted: We oppose racism and racial discrimination. We are working for peace and justice. We support all efforts to limit nuclear weapons and oppose the militarization of space.

The brother leader pointed out that our country has concerns about development and faces a long, hard struggle to attain further developmental successes to make up for prior deprivation under the defunct imamate regime. He indicated that our country and the friendly PDRE are members of the Nonaligned Movement and that both adopt its principles. He said: We highly value the political efforts that the PDRE is exerting in the OAU. We support and work in the direction of backing the Ethiopian revolution. He stressed the need to develop economic relations and exchange economic benefits between the two neighborly and friendly countries, thus serving the two friendly peoples' interests and reinforcing the march of their historically good relations.

In conclusion, he again welcomed President Mengistu and the accompaying delegation, wishing them a good stay in our country.

President Mengistu Haile Mariam then thanked Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for the hospitality and welcome accorded him and his accompanying delegation, stating: We have closely followed Yemen's policy for peace, development, and the preservation of independence. When the Yemenis and the Ethiopians have met, even prior to our meeting with you, they have reflected these goals and intentions, which are actually designed to serve the interests of our two countries and peace in the region. I was impatiently looking forward to my meeting with you to hold a dialogue on this topic so as to translate into practical terms what each of us can do for peace.

He pointed out that the visit of Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Addis Ababa opened large horizons and numerous spheres for developing relations between the two friendly countries—Yemen and Ethiopia. He noted: When I came here with my delegation, I saw more than what used to be said about Yemen. Moreover, our arrival in Yemen and participation in this great anniversary implies a renewal of history and of relations between the Ethiopian and the Yemeni peoples and countries.

On this occasion, I would like to point out to you that our impressions about all that we saw in your country are good and beautiful. That is why I congratulate you, because all these achievements were attained only through many efforts and sacrifices.

President Mengistu indicated in his speech that there is a similar relationship linking the Yemeni and the Ethiopian peoples and that there are similar matters, experiences, and lessons from which the two parties have benefited. He commented: We are confident that you understand us more than do others through what we say and through our common relationship. We all realize that we are living in a region with a long history and that our people are working to achieve peace in the region. He pointed out that peace is the decisive factor for progress. Without peace, there can be no building. President Mengistu pointed out: We are confident that we demand peace for construction. We all desire it. Our joint efforts for peace will be an example to others.

President Mengistu emphasized that these contacts and meetings will turn over a new leaf in relations between the two peoples and countries, indicating: For the sake of this, we are present with you and with the Yemeni people while sincerely endeavoring to develop these relations.

The session was attended on the Yemeni side by Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of economy, supply, and trade and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Husayn al-'Amri, agriculture and fisheries minister and member of the Standing Committee; Brother 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, director of the President's Office and member of the Standing Committee; and Husayn al-Ghaffari, our country's ambassador to the PDRE.

The PDRE's representatives were Amanuel Amde Michael, member of the Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy chairman of the State Council; (Sfayrinta), candidate member for the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and deputy prime minister; (Chagri Goltu), member and secretary of the Central Committee; Dr Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, member of the Central Committee and official in charge of foreign relations at the presidency; Mengistu (Gemshu), member of the Central Committee and official heading the President's Office; (Germashah), member of the Central Committee and official heading foreign relations at the Central Committee; (Musa Yasin), minister of the State Council and official heading the socialist competitions [title as heard]; (Muhammad Siraj), adviser at the Political and Planning Department; (Mugis Hitian), deputy minister of national security; (Asifta Yunsta), the ambassador and official at the Foreign Ministry's Middle East and African Department; and (Tuqwana Ata), the PDRE charge d'affaires to Sanaa.

Official Talks With SFRY Begin in Baghdad

JN281702 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—The first session of official talks between Iraq and the SFRY began here today. RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim headed the Iraqi delegation to the talks while SFRY Presidency member Nikola Ljubicic led his country's delegation.

At the onset of the meeting, 'Izzat Ibrahim welcomed the SFRY delegation. He said that this visit falls within the context of the common objectives of the two countries' leaders to promote the existing firm relations. He added that President Saddam Husayn and the late President Tito had laid down the foundations for these relations. Ibrahim also emphasized the need to further promote these ties.

The RCC vice chairman then reviewed developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the series of aggressions which the Iranian regime had carried out against Iraq before 4 Sepember 1980. He said that Iraq has agreed to all the resolutions, initiatives, and efforts that have been exerted by the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the ICO to end the war, while the Iranian regime has rejected all these international resolutions, efforts, and initiatives.

'Izzat Ibrahim added that Iraq has always expressed its desire to end the war. He then referred to the five peace principles that President Saddam Husayn defined on 2 August 1986, as well as to Iraq's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and its readiness to fully and comprehensively implement it.

Nikola Ljubicic said that the SFRY appreciates Iraq's peaceful stands. He asserted that his country supports the settlement of the conflict through peaceful means, adding that the SFRY always supports the victim of aggression and will act in accordance with this principle with respect to the Iraq-Iran war.

The SFRY official urged the United Nations and the Nonaligned Movement to exert their best efforts to halt the war and settle the conflict through peaceful means in a manner fair to both parties in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

During this session, the two sides reviewed existing relations between the two friendly countries and emphasized the need to promote them in all fields to ensure that they become a model for distinctive relations of cooperation among nonaligned and developing countries.

The Iraqi delegation to the talks is composed of Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun, several officials, and the Iraqi ambassador in Belgrade. On behalf of the SFRY, the talks were attended by Janez Zemljaric, Federal Executive Council vice president; Budimir Loncar, deputy federal secretary for foreign affairs; several officials; and the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad.

Saddam, Ljubicic Discuss UN Resolution

JN281805 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received SFRY Presidency member Nikola Ljubicic and his accompanying delegation. Ljubicic conveyed to President Saddam Husayn greetings from the SFRY leadership, headed by SFRY Presidency President Lazar Mjsov. Talks during the meeting dealt with the cordial relations between the two friendly countries, as well as ways to promote them in the service of the two peoples' interests. Discussion also focused on UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

The SFRY official expressed his country's support for Iraq's stand on the resolution and for the need to completely implement its provisions in their chronological order and as an indivisible whole.

The meeting was attended by RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and the president's secretary.

'Aziz Meets With Saudi Foreign Minister at UN

JN281849 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1535 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal here last night. The two ministers discussed the latest developments in the Arab Gulf region, as well as the international efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 which calls for ending the Iraq-Iran war.

Meets With Hungarian, ROK Ministers

JN282059 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met separately in New York with Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Varkonyi and ROK Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su. Talks during the two meetings dealt with the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the efforts under way to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which is a comprehensive call to end the conflict. The two meetings also focused on Iraq's relations with Hungary and the ROK.

RCC Decides To Abolish Ministry of Youth

JN301701 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—The RCC decided today to abolish the Ministry of Youth and have other ministries and sports bodies take over its responsibilities. The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

will take over the National Youth Institute, and the National Olympic Committee will become responsible for Iraq's official regional and international sports relations and other sports activities. The RCC said that this decision will be implemented 30 days after publication in the official gazette.

Youth Minister Relieved of Post

JN281907 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 28 Sep 87

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—A presidential decree was issued here this evening relieving 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin of his post as youth minister. Under the presidential decree, 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin is appointed to the post of adviser in the RCC's popular organizations office.

Further on Gulf War Combat Operations

Lloyds Confirms Iranian Ships Hit

JN301246 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Britain's Lloyds insurance firm today confirmed that the Iranian tanker *Khark* was hit by Iraqi fighter planes near the Iranian coast yesterday. Lloyds also confirmed that the Iranian ship *Sabah* was also hit by an Iraqi missile in the eastern part of the Arabian Gulf on 28 September. Lloyds reported that one of the 19,702-tonne Iranian ship's crew was killed in the attack. It also said that the 127,450-tonne *Khark* tanker was built in 1973.

A military spokesman announced the day before yesterday that our capable Air Force had attacked large maritime targets belonging to the Iranian enemy.

Communique No 2,852

JN301657 Bagdhad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Communique No 2,852 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 30 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Through the sacrifices of their men, the people's Armed Forces continue to be the homeland's impregnable fortress and faithful defender of the homeland's soil, people, and the achievements of its revolution. The results of our victorious units' activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. Our brave helicopter gunships dealt effective blows to enemy positions and concentrations of its personnel and weapons in the operational sectors, inflicting further losses on them through 38 combat missions. Afterward, our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. One 106-mm gun and one heavy machinegun were destroyed and one bulldozer was burned and destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. One enemy shovel [preceding in English] was burned and destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Our brave units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah opened fire on enemy positions opposite them and achieved the following: three shovels [preceding word in English] and one bulldozer destroyed; two vehicles burned and destroyed; three machineguns destroyed and those manning them killed; one infantry position and one post destroyed; and three ammunition dumps blown up.

5. One of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan opened fire on a group of enemy personnel, killing or wounding a number of them. Elsewhere in the same sector, an infantry position and one post were destroyed.

6. One enemy soldier was killed and two others were wounded and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. The enemy used long-range artillery to shell residential areas in valiant Basra. The enemy shelling martyred five civilians, injured a number of civilians, and damaged a number of houses and one hotel. The criminals also shelled Qal'at Dizah and one of its villages with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling wounded one child. To our martyrs heaven and to our wounded a swift recovery, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 30 September 1987

Iranian Tankers Fall to 6

JN301747 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1702 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Vienna, 30 Sep (INA)—Informed oil sources affirmed here today that the number of Iranian oil tankers operating between Khark Island and other Iranian ports has dropped from 18 to 6 since the end of last August as a result of Iraqi air strikes. These sources told an INA correspondent in Vienna that the loss of tankers had caused a sharp drop in Iranian oil stores outside the Arabian Gulf area.

The sources cited shipping circles in the Arabian Gulf as saying that if Iraq continues its air strikes on Iranian oil installations, [Iranian] oil exports will be affected greatly, especially with the approach of winter in Iran.

Oil sources affirmed a few days ago that Iranian oil production this month was more than 500,000 barrels per day less than last month as a result of Iraqi air attacks on Iranian oil installations.

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN010611 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Oct

[Statement by military spokesman dated 1 October 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful. the compassionate. To deprive the Iranian regime of the opportunity to use its oil revenues for aggression and continuation of the war, our heroic Air Force at 0510 [0210 GMT] today dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. After carrying out this duty, all our aircraft returned safely to base in God's care.

[Dated] 1 October 1987

Peres Discusses Meeting With PRC Counterpart

TA010556 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] The foreign minister of the PRC has told Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that Beijing will not establish deplomatic relations with Israel unless Jerusalem changes its policies. In his speech before the UN General Assembly, Peres had called on China to recognize Israel. Last night's meeting between Peres and his Chinese counterpart was the first time the foreign ministers from the two countries have held official talks. More from reporter in New York Jonathan Shechter:

[Begin recording] [Shechter] The meeting was expected to last 20 to 30 minutes. Instead the two foreign ministers spoke for about an hour and three-quarters. Foreign Minister Peres said the two sides explored the areas of closeness as well as disagreements over the peace process and agreed to continue contacts.

[Peres] This is the first time that a foreign minister of the Republic of China and the state of Israel have met officially and openly. It has all the precedents of a first meeting and all the shortcomings of a first meeting. We have agreed to continue our exchanges of views via our ambassadors at the United Nations.

[Shechter] Both sides explained their positions. The Chinese foreign minister, Wu Xueqian, reaffirmed China's support for convening an international conference under UN auspices and said the PLO is entitled to participate on an equal footing with other parties. But according to Peres, he did not refer to the PLO as sole representative. And, said Peres, there were other things that caught his attention.

[Peres] There were some definitions which were intriguing. For example, on the international conference the precise words for the Chinese foreign minister were that whatever you will agree, the secretary general and the Arab side, will be acceptable to us. [sentence as received] It is different from the Russian position. The Russians have an opinion of their own. China wants to do it her way, and they don't like any pressure.

[Shechter] Peres said he asked Mr Wu about the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations, saying, as he told the Soviet foreign minister, they are not a reward but a channel of communication toward establishing the peace process. But asked if it's possible to speak at this point of closening of ties between the two countries, Peres said he prefered to be more cautious in his words. For their part, the Chinese apparently wanted to downplay the significance of the meeting. In a statement afterwards, a spokesman said it came about at the request of the Israelis in the context of meetings with all five permanent Security Council members on the Middle East question. But privately a Chinese official pointed out the fact that this meeting and two previous meetings between Foreign Ministry Director General Tamir and the Chinese UN ambassador all took place at the Chinese mission. That, he said, indicates the Chinese side is very interested in the meetings. [end recording]

Shamir Comments on Meeting

TA011219 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami on 1 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, do you also regard the foreign minister's meeting with his Chinese counterpart as a historic event?

[Shamir] I do not know what a historic event is, but of course we must try to reach good relations with China. I hope that in time our relations will be better than they are now. We have good relations in several fields, but not in the diplomatic sphere. In the meantime, I understand from the contents of the conversation that the Chinese are very far from establishing diplomatic relations with Israel. They are stubbornly and fanatically insisting on the incorporation of the PLO in the negotiations over the future of the country, something we do not agree with. I hope the situation will improve in the future.

Shamir Briefs Likud on Shultz Visit Agenda

TA301900 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Regarding the upcoming visit by George Shultz, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said in a meeting of Likud ministers today that not much is to be expected from the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Israel. Shamir also briefed his party's ministers on Shim'on Peres' meetings and speech at the United Nations. Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports:

[Begin recording] The prime minister told the ministers that Shultz' visit will be very short, about 24 hours, and that no serious negotiations can be expected during such a visit. He added that Shultz is not coming here to convince people on the international conference issue. Mr Shamir emphasized that advantage should be taken of the fact that in his talks with the Soviets, the U.S. secretary of state will talk about human rights, as well as disarmament. Therefore, he should be asked to demand that the Soviets grant those Jews who want to leave the USSR the same status as that granted Germans, who emigrate for national reasons as well as family unification reasons.

As for Shim'on Peres' talks and speech in New York, the prime minister told the Likud ministers that the vice prime minister had kept the agreements reached with Shamir prior to his departure. In New York, Peres emphasized that there are disagreements within the government over the way to reach direct negotiations.

Shim'on Peres has briefed the prime minister on his talk with the Soviet foreign minister, which touched on the Jewish emigration issue, among others.

The Likud ministers meeting did not address itself to the clash between Ministers Rabin and Weizman and Minister Sharon during the last Cabinet meeting. [end recording]

Editorial Comments on Upcoming Shultz Visit
TA300936 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Sep 87 p 10

[Editorial: "Mr Shultz Comes To Town"]

[Text] The American secretary of state is a great friend representing a great and friendly world power. When he arrives in Jerusalem en route to Moscow, as he will be doing in three weeks' time, in an effort to lift the Middle East peace process out of the doldrums, George Shultz will be accorded a reception befitting both the influence he wields and his friendliness towards Israel. On that score Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who had been apprised by the secretary of state of his travel plans, which include Cairo and Amman as well, left no doubt in several comments yesterday. But not on that score alone.

Lest Mr. Shultz entertain any notion that by coming here he could talk Mr Shamir into yielding so much as an inch on the issue of the international peace conference, the premier also hastened to publicly serve notice that any such hope was utterly forlorn.

So far, so clear, and hardly surprising. Only last week Mr. Shamir assured an audience of high school students in Ramat Hasharon that there was going to be no international peace conference while he served as premier, simply because the government he presided over would not attend that sort of forum. The statement was flat enough to bar any deviation from it by the Herut party leader. But there precisely is the rub.

Mr Shultz has been avoiding the Middle East like the plague ever since his abortive visit here on behalf of the tottering Israeli-Lebanese agreement four years ago. Last May he was easily dissuaded by Mr. Shamir's special emissary to Washington, Moshe Arens, then minister without portfolio, to scrap a plan for a visit in the area to promote the conference idea.

If Mr. Shultz has now revived the plan, that surely cannot be due to any sudden fit of amnesia about the fact that Israel is split right down the middle over the conference, and that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has been unable to muster a Cabinet majority in its support.

Assuming then, that the secretary of state is no stranger to the premier's—meaning the Likud's—stand in the matter, it would make no sense for him to come here next month only to be told that the conference is a perfect non-starter and not even worth discussing. It would be more reasonable to expect him to inform Mr. Shamir that, while the U.S. will stand by Israel in the defence of its vital national interests, it has swung over to the view that these interests, and America's own, will be best served by means of an international conference on Middle East peace.

Direct negotations with the neighbouring Arab states, particularly with Jordan, Mr. Shamir is likely to be told, are not only Israel's but America's desideratum as well. But in order to be lauched, such negotiations require—not for any intrinsic but for internal Arab reasons—an international umbrella, and in the circumstances it is inevitable that the Soviet Union should be one of the five powers to hold the umbrella up.

As Mr. Shamir must be well aware, the Kremlin's previously unacceptable demands in this matter have been appreciably softened over the past several months. Only last week, in his talks in New York with Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Mr. Peres found out that the Soviets no longer insist, for example, on separate representation for the PLO at the mooted parley.

True, the gap between Mr. Shevardnadze's conception of the conference and Mr. Peres', and for that matter Mr. Shultz' has not thereby been made entirely to disappear. The foreign minister himself will doubtless keep calling on the Soviet Union to legitimize its claim to participation by renewing diplomatic ties and, even more crucially, by opening its gates for the exodus of its Jews. The question, which Mr. Shultz is likely to pose, is whether Mr. Shamir's purported veto on the conference is a means for extracting still more concessions from the Soviets, or whether it is unalterable no matter what.

What if it is the latter case, as the secretary of state is very likely to discover? Then the conclusion would be inescapable that Israel's premier not only does not care to take advantage of the global warming up of relations between the super powers for the sake of regional peace, but would actually be happiest to see the present deadlock persist through the twilight of the Reagan presidency and until hell freezes over or until the Arabs sign the Likud's programme on the dotted line, whichever comes first.

That this status quo strategy is ultimately a prescription for war and disaster, and for rupture with the U.S., seems to be obvious even to some of the clearer minds within Herut itself. The detailed programme for direct accommodation with the Palestinians recently worked out by Herut's stormy petrel Moshe 'Amirav, may be a farrago of self-delusive nonsense, but at least it suggests awareness that change in the 20-year-old state of the occupation is imperative, and is well worth an effort. Mr Shamir, representing the majority within his party, plainly thinks otherwise.

It may be too much to expect the courteous Mr. Shultz to tell Mr. Shamir to his face that the premier's apparent intention to work havoc with Mr. Reagan's planned triumphal exit as the hero of peace will not rate kudos in Washington. But it would certainly be a great pity if, out of a misguided concern that he might be accused of interfering in Israel's internal affairs, the secretary of state were to keep his thoughts about Mr. Shamir's destructive anti-peace policy and its implications to himself.

Diplomacy is no substitute for openness in the friendly ties that exist between the U.S. and Israel.

Shamir Criticizes 'Cold Peace' With Egypt

TA011006 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Oct 87 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] In a briefing in preparation for U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the area, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir leveled sharp criticism at Egypt. At yesterday's meeting of Likud ministers, Shamir described the state of relations with Egypt as a cold peace and condemned the attacks against Israel in the Egyptian press.

On the eve of the Shultz visit, Shamir called on the Likud ministers to lend their full support to a propaganda campaign against the international conference. He said the conference "is not practical." [passage omitted]

In anticipation of the Shultz visit, Shamir asked his aides to prepare proposals that could be presented as alternatives to the international conference. Moshe Qatzav, minister of labor and social welfare, recently proposed in the Likud Ministers Forum that the UN Security Council should invite the Middle East parties to direct talks, and with this its role would be concluded.

Political sources in Jerusalem think that Shamir will not reject Shultz' ideas for talks with Jordan and the Palestinians under some form of international auspices that would not be called an international conference.

Malta Initiates Restoration of Relations

TA291248 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Excerpt] Foreign Ministry sources in Jerusalem have welcomed the call by Malta's prime minister for the restoration of ambassadorial-level relations with Israel. In an interview with the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, Prime Minister Edward Fenech Adami conceded that Malta, under its previous Labor administration, looked like a Libyan satellite. [passage omitted]

Asked to Accredit Ambassador

TA300931 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Sep 87 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] Israel has asked Malta for accreditation on a non-resident basis for its ambassador in Rome and is awaiting a reply from Valetta, it has been learned.

Valetta has recently issued a number of signals of a thaw in its attitude to Israel. Israeli officials last night said that Jerusalem "welcomes the new attitude in Valetta and hopes that a more balanced policy will emerge."

Israeli officials visited Valetta about six weeks ago and put in a request that Israel's ambassador to Rome also receive accreditation of Malta. The Israeli demarche came a few weeks after the assumption of the premiership in June by Edward Fenech Adami, the head of the Nationalist Party, who replaced the long-time Socialist leader of the island republic, Dom Mintoff.

Three months ago the director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Avraham Tamir, secretly visited Valetta, but apparently made no headway in improving relations between the two countries.

Israeli-Maltese relations soured in 1979 when, apparently due to Libyan pressure, Mintoff unilaterally lowered the level of Isreali representation to that of charge d'affaires. In theory, Ester Milo is the resident Israeli charge d'affaires in Valetta but in practice she visits the island every few months.

Jerusalem is now awaiting Valetta's agreement to the return to ambassadorial-level relations. Malta, which has always been represented in Israel by an honorary consul, has few embassies abroad.

Peres Comments After Shultz Meeeting at UN

TA301804 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] In his talk with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in New York, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz asked Israel not to come to a confrontation with the U.S. Administration regarding arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Mr Peres met with his U.S. counterpart for an hour. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports the following from New York.

[Begin recording] [Schiffer] On the planned arms deal with Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Administration is determined to go ahead with this deal despite opposition by Congress. Secretary Shultz' comments on this issue were tantamount to a presidential warning to Israel. He said: The President will not appreciate a public confrontation between us on this issue. Do not seek a confrontation with us.

[Peres] I told him: Sir, do not expect Israel to change its basic position, which is that we are opposed to the sale of arms to any country that is in a declared state of war with Israel.

[Schiffer] On fallout from the Lavi plane issue, Mr Peres told me he raised proposals that will allow employment to be found for thousands of workers in the military industries in the wake of scrapping the Lavi project. I will receive answers to some of my proposals before my visit to the United States is over, the foreign minister said.

As for the peace process, Secretary Shultz said he is coming to the Middle East at President Reagan's instruction to check out new ideas that will enable Israel to make a decision on the international conference issue. Mr Peres assessed that the Jordanians will welcome the change in the Soviet stance on Palestinian representation: The Soviets no longer insist on the PLO being represented as an independent delegation in the conference.

Another issue which arose in the conversation was the matter of the MIA soldiers. The United States and the Soviet Union have been requested to deal with this issue. Mr Peres raised this matter in his talk with his Soviet counterpart as well as with the U.S. secretary of state. [end recording]

Our correspondent adds that a short while ago Mr Peres conferred with the Yugoslav foreign minister and that in 2 hours he will arrive at the headquarters of the PRC delegation to the United Nations. It wil' be the first time that such a high-level meeting, between the two countries' foreign ministers, has taken place since the inception of the State of Israel.

Peres Calls on U.S. Jews To Support Conference

TA010810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has called on Jewish organizations in the United States to follow the lead of the American Jewish Congress and take a stand in support of an international conference. In a speech to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the foreign minister said the question of such a conference is a matter of life or death. He told his audience it is impossible to remain neutral on the issue:

[Begin Peres recording] I would be very much surprised if all of a sudden Jewish (?lied) and say we are neutral on the issue of peace. Think about it. I think it is a mistake. I can not (?tow) them. I'm not going to mobilize. But to say that an organization doesn't have a right? You know, on the issue if to have a Jewish state on a divided land, you organizations took positions. [end recording]

Our reporter says that the reactions to Peres' speech were mixed, and that some members of the audience expressed concern that the foreign minister was trying to involve American Jewry in Israel's own internal conflicts.

Shamir Pleased With Magarik USSR Exit Visa

TA011130 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] The last of the prisoners of Zion, Aleksey Magarik, today received an exit visa from the (Avir) emigration offices in Moscow. He was told that he and his wife must leave the Soviet Union within 2 weeks.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, on a tour this morning of the ORT [expansion unknown] vocational school in Jerusalem, told reporter Dick Winter that he welcomed the news:

[Begin Shamir recording] Well, I am very happy for this opportunity given to our friend Aleksey Magarik to come soon to Israel, and I hope that many, many of the Jewish people from Soviet Russia will follow him. [end recording]

Peres Distorting Soviet Position on Conference

TA291901 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Sep 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Peres-Shevardnadze Meeting"]

[Text] Once again Shim'on Peres has begun his overt diplomatic games and antics. They come within the framework of his relentless efforts to gain international support and draw the Israeli voter over to his own ideas and plans on convening an international peace conference. These ideas and plans run counter to the foundations and bases firmly established by international authority.

At the conclusion of his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York yesterday, Shim'on Peres described the flexible Soviet position toward convening an international peace conference as representing a concession from the traditional positions that have always outlined the framework, features, and foundations of Soviet policy in the region. These foundations affirm the Palestinian people's right to attain their legitimate rights and the PLO's right to attend the aspired to international conference for peace in the region.

This is not the first time Peres has tried to distort the principled Soviet positions toward the Palestinians' legitimate national rights. Previously he claimed that there were secret contacts between Moscow and Tel Aviv on restoring diplomatic relations to the pre-1967 level. But very soon the Soviet leadership exposed the falsity of

these claims and affirmed that it was impossible to renew relations with Israel without the Palestinian people attaining all their legitimate rights.

The Soviet Union has affirmed more than once that it will not succumb to Israel's policy of blackmail, whereby Israel tries to link the Soviet Union's participation in the international peace conference with the restoration of relations between the two countries.

Shutting out the Soviet Union from the meetings of the international peace conference was and remains the foundation of Israeli policy because Israel sees its participation as a restoration of Soviet influence in the region. This is something that Israel does not desire, and it persists on calling for the convocation of a regional conference as an alternative to the international conference, which has been endorsed by international authority and is regarded as the practical and acceptable opening for establishing a just and lasting peace in the region.

Zaq Commentary on Peres-Sheverdnadze Talks

TA281529 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
28 Sep 87 p A10

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "A Meeting Without Polemics"]

[Text] Following the rosy report from New York about the Peres-Shevardnadze meeting, a Moscow news conference was convened at which Soviet spokesmen explained that there had been no change in the Soviet Union's policy toward Israel.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry was content with a spokesman's announcement that the Soviet Union adhered to its position that the PLO must be incorporated into the conference. However, at a news conference organized by the Anti-Zionist League, which is an arm of the Soviet psychological warfare machine, the talk was more frank. Contacts with Israel are purely consular and there is no intention of expanding them into diplomatic relations. As for the talks with Peres, they were held within the framework of making clarifications about an international conference.

It is generally worth regarding the Anti-Zionist League's propaganda, like the Hebrew broadcasts by Moscow Radio Peace and Progress, with enormous reservations. But this time the organizers added a little spice. Their words were broadcast by the official news agency TASS and, along with the Jew Samuil Zivs, Igor Belyayev, the *Literaturnaya Gazeta* commentator and former *Pravda* correspondent in Cairo, also took part in the conference. It was he who explained to the enraged Arab journalists that the Peres-Shevardnadze talk had been held as part of the preparations for an international conference and that Moscow would not renew its relations with Jerusalem as long as Israel did not change its policy.

The Moscow news conference was convened less than 24 hours after the meeting in New York. At the same time that the Israeli spokesmen in New York were heaping praise on the Soviet Union for their improvement in human rights in everything involving Jews' right to emigrate, the Soviet spokesmen in Moscow were reviling Israel for "violating human rights in the territories."

It is very doubtful that the Israeli reactions to the Peres-Shevardnadze meeting were well thought out.

—It is very doubtful that the prime minister's aides were right to praise remarks the foreign minister had heard from his interlocutor, whether or not they were earth-shaking.

—It is very doubtful whether the foreign minister's aides were right in rushing to indicate changes in the Soviet position, thus pushing Moscow into a denial.

—It is highly doubtful that there was any reason to be thrilled that the Soviet Union was prepared to give up on PLO representation at an international conference.

—It is highly doubtful whether it was necessary for the foreign minister to describe the talk as "a serious meeting without polemics," as he defined his previous session with the Soviet foreign minister. When compliments are lavished around prematurely, one must consider how they might influence the ongoing public struggle for Jewish aliyah from the Soviet Union.

In any event, as the man in charge of Israeli diplomacy, Peres could have been expected to leave it to Moscow to announce the changes in its policy rather than to spread leaks in order to explain Soviet policy.

There is nothing new about the Soviet agreement to set up bilateral committees within the framework of an international conference. Such an agreement was first mentioned in a Soviet document submitted to the UN secretary general in July 1984.

As for "the possibility that the Soviet Union may agree to an international conference without the PLO under certain conditions," it was not born in the Shevardnadze-Peres meeting.

—This possibility was mentioned in talks with secret Soviet envoys who came to Jerusalem in April 1975 (representation of the PLO within the Jordanian delegation to the Geneva Conference).

—Ambassador Dobrynin intimated as much in a meeting with Ambassador Herzog in the summer of 1976 (representation of the PLO in the committees but not in the plenum of the Geneva Conference).

—Furthermore the Soviets have not promised not to include the PLO. They are merely prepared to leave this decision to the PLO.

There was no call for hastening to give a public interpretation of Shevardnadze's remarks that triggered the announcement by spokesman Gerasimov that the Soviet Union regards the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians.

Soviet foreign ministers confer with their Israeli counterparts almost every year, and they did so even before the Soviet Union raised the notion of an international conference. Since such a conference cannot be held without Israel, as Gromyko once admitted in a talk with Yitzhaq Shamir, the session with Peres acquires special significance. Without Israel the United States could not have been persuaded to examine the option of a conference.

The United States has just rejected a Soviet proposal to set up a joint naval force to police the Persian Gulf. The United States is not interested in such a partnership and is not prepared to recognize the Soviet Union as an equal partner in the region. The international conference is another side of that same Soviet objective. The discussion with Peres on the conference proceedings and participants enhanced the status of the Soviet Union as a partner to decisionmaking, and therein lies the secret of Shevardnadze's "sympathetic ear."

Therefore, the feeling of inferiority of certain officials in Jerusalem, which keeps them from insisting on reciprocal visits by consular delegations because they believe a gesture of goodwill toward the Soviet Union is better than arguing over reciprocity, is not justified.

Relations with superpowers definitely call for patience, and Peres has already made a great gesture toward the Soviet Union by his very agreement to discuss issues pertaining to the international conference and its powers with the Soviet foreign minister. He thus has given the Soviet Union more than he has received, and brought it closer to attaining its goal of strategic involvement in the region.

At the time, Peres hoped that the Soviet Union would respond by resuming full diplomatic relations. His aides are now suggesting to him that he make do with the extension of the Soviet consular delegation's stay in Israel.

Visiting Soviet Journalists Comment on Ties

TA291002 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Sep 87 p 4

[Report by political correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Two visiting Soviet journalists yesterday provided some of their Israeli colleagues with ample and living proof of the winds of change that are sweeping across the Soviet Union.

In a Jerusalem meeting that combined a press conference with some Soviet-Israeli journalistic dialogue, Pavel Demchenko, a member of *Pravda's* editorial board, and Sergey Kolesnykov, deputy editor of the Soviet periodical *Kommunist,* spoke openly and with surprising self-deprecating humour of their country's ills and of the "new political thinking" under the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev.

One of the main obstacles to Jewish emigration in the past, they said, was the fact that in the Soviet Union, the bureaucrats—and not the law—ruled. There was a constitution and a complete set of laws promising social justice, "but the final word belonged to the bureaucrat" who operated in accordance with guidelines which were kept secret from the public.

The emigration laws have now been publicized, and this has led to a process of "humanization." Thus, since January, Soviet authorities have issued over 16,000 exit visas, 5,000 of which have been to Israel. There have been only 800 refusals, and 400 of these are under appeal.

What the West terms political prisoners, said Demchenko, are also being released, not only because of a relaxation of policy but also—as his friend who deals with emigration told him—because once the prisoners emigrate "they are quickly forgotten."

Most Soviet citizens are not very concerned about emigration. The problem of Soviet Jews who want to leave is, of course, quite distinct from that of "Soviet citizens of Jewish descent who are not sitting on their suitcases," said Kolesnykov. Speaking of Stalinist anti-Semitic purges, Demchenko added that "to this day I fail to understand" why the so-called "doctors' trial" of the early 1950s took place.

Demchenko, who specializes in Middle East affairs, also has problems understanding the "heavy layers" that burden Soviet-Israeli relations. He reiterated the standard Soviet line that the break in relations between the two countries was a direct result of Israel's "aggressive policies" in the 1967 war, but pointed to recent signs of improvement, saying that "the train has already left the station and sooner of later it will arrive."

Israel's refusal to recognize the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinians is a "serious obstacle" to the convening of an international conference, he said. The problem is not who will represent the Palestinians at the conference, but Israel's refusal to recognize the "fundamental rights of the Palestinian people."

The international conference could also solve a "whole set of problems," including Israeli-Soviet relations, said Demchenko. "Excuse the comparison," he added with a smile, "but sometimes men and women sit around a table and after nine months a baby is born."

The Soviets' "new political thinking" should also apply to the "other side," the Soviet journalists said. Commenting on the internal debate here, Demchenko said: "The three no's of Prime Minister Shamir"—to an international conference, talks with the PLO, and a Soviet role in the peace process—"have been erased by reality."

The news reports of Israeli production of Jericho II missiles coincided with the U.S.-Soviet talks on the elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles, and have therefore attracted Soviet attention. The emerging U.S.-Soviet pact aims at the total dismantling of such weapons, but "everything that Israel does is perceived by Soviet public opinion as involving U.S. participation and agreement.

"Israel is a declared strategic ally of the U.S.," said Demchenko, "and we take that very seriously."

Thus, he explained, if Israel has 20 atomic bombs, then the Soviet people perceive them as being part and parcel of America's arsenal. The case of Mordekhay Vanunu, which has received wide publicity in the Soviet Union, has only added fuel to the fire.

The Soviets embarked on a "cleansing" of their own house, said Demchenko, after they realized that they too suffer from the ills of "drug addiction, prostitution and pornographic literature imported from the West." Soviet society is basically strong and healthy, but there must be something wrong "if we have the most fertile soil in the world but still need to buy wheat."

There is some opposition to Gorbachev's reforms, conceded Kolesnykov, but it does not encompass large segments of Soviet society. Bureaucrats who are losing their power or getting sacked and workers who are now expected to produce in order to get paid comprise two of the groups that are opposed to the Soviet leader.

The two visitors, who are here at the invitation of the RAKAH (Communist) Party, which is holding a "Communist media festival," assured their listeners that glasnost is here to stay. But old habits are hard to break, as they themselves admitted. They repeated a joke now being told in Moscow:

One Soviet citizen calls up another and asks: "Did you see the lead article in today's *Pravda?*"

"No," the person at the other end says, "could you tell me about it?"

"That's not for the phone..."

Military Sources Estimate Gulf War Casualties

TA301138 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Excerpt] The casualty toll in the 7-year-old Gulf war is thought to be about 1 million killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. This is the estimate of Israeli military sources who have been observing the war between Iran and Iraq, which only last week entered its 8th year without any sign of a let-up. The latest developments in the Gulf war and its ramifications are assessed by Arye Haskell:

The Israeli military sources note that the figures divide unevenly: two Iranians for every Iraqi killed, wounded, or captured. They also point out that the number of Iranians taken prisoner by the Iraqis is low, only about 10,000, whereas the number of dead is over 250,000 and the wounded nearly 500,000. Iraq's losses in all three categories are thought to total about 350,000. [passage omitted]

Likud Planning To Oust Labor After Holidays

TA291115 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Sep 87 pp 1, 6

[Report by party affairs correspondent Ilan Shehori]

[Text] The top echelon of the Herut Movement is currently looking into the possiblity of trying to establish a narrow-based government by ousting the Labor Party from the national unity government after the holiday season [mid-October].

This is the intention behind the recent cooperation between Minister David Levi and former Minister Moshe Arens who, through this move, hope to revive the Lavi project, increase settlement activities in Judaea and Samaria, and transfer the defense portfolio to Arens and the foreign affairs portfolio to Levi.

Levi and Arens, who have until recently been avowed enemies within Herut's top echelon ("Mr Professor, wise guy" on the one hand and "mafia" on the other), began cooperating after Arens quit the government following the decision on the Lavi project. In tete-a-tete sessions and in closed meetings with their associates, the two men stressed that for the sake of success in the next elections the Herut Movement must get the Labor Party to quit the government. The political benefits the two men stand to reap as a result of the dissolution of the government and the establishment of a Likud-based government were also discussed in these sessions. Levi would seek the foreign affairs portfolio and Arens would seek the defense portfolio, and the latter's first action in his new capacity would be to resume the Lavi project.

In the next few weeks the two men intend to exert heavy pressure on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to take a firmer and more unequivocal position toward Labor Party figures, particularly Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in order to direct the Alignment out of the government.

In the past, Shamir has had several opportunities to fire various Cabinet ministers, including Peres, but he refrained from getting into a political confrontation in order to preserve the national unity government.

Last night sources in the Likud voiced their assessment that the U.S. secretary of state's upcoming visit to the region and Peres' return from the United States will lead to a head-on confrontation between the Likud and the Alignment over the international conference issue, and it is against this background that the Likud will try to make the Labor Party quit the government.

Shamir, who at least officially argues that he will not lend a hand in dissolving the national unity government, decided in talks with his associates to sharpen his position vis-a-vis that of the Labor Party after the holiday season and submit several issues in dispute between the two parties—which he has so far refrained from raising—to the Cabinet for its approval. Among other things, he intends to deal with the establishment of additional settlements in Judaea and Samaria by invoking previous Cabinet decisions.

Reacting to *Ha'aretz*, former Minister Moshe Arens, who serves as chairman of the Herut Movement Secretariat, last night described his relations with David Levi as very good. He noted, however, that he does not usually divulge the content of his talks with other Herut ministers.

According to Arens, his actions are not guided by personal motives. He stressed that the biggest contribution a narrow, Likud-based government could make would be to bring about the resumption of the Lavi project. "The termination fo the Lavi project is the biggest mistake the State of Israel has made since the blunder of the Yom Kippur War. The big difference between these two catastrophic mistakes is that the decision on the Lavi can be amended," Arens noted last night.

IDF Begins 2-Year Draft For 'Special' Groups

TA281020 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Sep 87 p 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Last month the IDF started a new experiment in which soldiers were called up for 2 instead of 3 years of compulsory service. Our military correspondent has been told that reference is made to more than 100 soldiers, some of whom have very low medical profiles and some of whom come from population groups that were never drafted by the IDF in the past.

The soldiers have just completed their basic training and have been incorporated in commands and corps. The Manpower Branch has expressed satisfaction with the experiment for the time being, and it is being noted with satisfaction that only two soldiers dropped out of the group.

It was with the intention of granting equal opportunities to all sections of the population that the IDF developed the plan to recruit for a 2-year service stint. The soldiers included in the new plan will also be entitled to bear arms after basic training. Our military correspondent has learned that when the news of the new stint spread among the "special population", many appeals reached the recruitment center's administration with requests to serve for 2 instead of 3 years, but the IDF is determined to adhere to the set criteria and regard the matter as an experiment.

Senior military sources dealing with this matter have said the IDF hopes that some of those people included in the plan will be found to be "qualitative soldiers" and will continue to serve for the customary 3 years. "At the same time, it is clear to us that others will drop out," they said.

Village Leagues Jordan Initiative Criticized

TA291226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Palestinians aligned with Jordan are furious over efforts by members of the Israeli-backed Village Leagues to forge ties with Amman, presenting themselves as activists for a confederation between Jordan and the administered territories. The editor of the pro-Jordanian East Jerusalem newspaper *Al-Nahar*, 'Uthman al-Hallaq, says the head of the Village Leagues, Jamil al-'Amlah, has already been rejected by the Amman government, yet he still claims he is backed by Jordan. Al-Hallaq told reporter Steve Rodan before Al-'Amlah seeks Jordanian funds, he should take down the Village Leagues' sign and hibernate for 6 months:

[Begin recording] [Al-Hallaq] We did not attack Jamil al-'Amlah as a person. We attacked the Village Leagues, or what is remaining of the Village Leagues. We have nothing against Mr Al-'Amlah personally, and this has to be clear. What we are against is that we should not allow the Village Leagues, which have been discredited in the past, to revive under the pretext of the confederation—a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation—or the banners which we advocate.

[Rodan] Does the Village Leagues, or those that want to convert to a new organization, have any support either among local Palestinians or among those in Amman?

[Al-Hallaq] I know very well that here in the territories, as everybody knows, the Village Leagues have failed. They have not been able to promote their ideas, they have been discredited, and I do not think they have the popularity to organize again. What is required is the dissolving of the Village Leagues and the people must be willing to accept the new lines of the game. [end recording]

King Husayn leaves for Oman 'Working Visit'
JN261124 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Sep 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for the Sultanate of Oman this afternoon on a working visit during which he will meet with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus, sultan of Oman. His majesty was seen off at Amman Airport by His Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty's personal representative; Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi; House Speaker 'Akif al-Fayiz; Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah. His majesty was also seen off by the deputy prime minister, ministers, the chief of the Royal Household, the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court, senior civilian and military officials, and the Omani ambassador to Jordan.

His Highness Prince Muhammad, personal representative of His Majesty King Husayn, took the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn and in the presence of the ministers as his majesty's regent throughout his absence from the homeland. His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain, and Staff Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, left with his majesty.

Dudin Welcomes Shultz Visit as 'Opportunity'
JN301108 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Sep 87 p 26

[Text] Jordan has welcomed the visit which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz intends to make to Jordan during the second half of next month while touring a number of countries in the region.

In a statement to *Sawt al-Sha'b*, acting Foreign Minister Marwan Dudin said that Jordan's policy is a clear one. It is extremly important for us to have relations with parties which have influence on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iraq-Iran war. As we are in the center of the struggle and affected by it, we do not underestimate the visit by the architect of U.S. policy. Shultz' visit will be an opportunity for us to affirm our moderate position which calls for a just and honorable solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and for regaining the Palestinian people's national rights.

Dudin expressed the hope that this visit will contribute to creating a balance in the U.S. stand toward the Arab-Israeli conflict—a stand which is still tilted in favor of Israel. Dudin said that in its international relations, Jordan has been eager to confirm its concern for balance in international and regional fields.

Dudin commented on the Arab-Israeli conflict, saying that Jordan would like to stress to the international community, particularly the two superpowers and the UN Security Council permanent members, that it supports international legitimacy in its attempt to reach a just and comprehensive solution to this conflict within the framework of the Palestinian Arab people's rights according to UN Resolutions No 242 and 338 and through an international conference to be called for by the UN secretary general.

Cabinet Approves Financing of W. Bank Projects
JN271923 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Sep 87 p 1

[Text] Amman, PETRA-JNA—The Cabinet held a session under Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i last night. During the session, the Cabinet approved a draft agreement to finance $14 million for economic and social development projects in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as granted by the U.S. Government. The Cabinet entrusted Dr Ziyad Fariz, secretary general of the Planning Ministry, with signing the agreement with the U.S. Government's international development program.

Al-Jumayyil, Qaddumi Discuss Arab Summit

NC300805 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has declared that the PLO supports Lebanon and does not object to the Palestinian presence there being governed by Lebanon's sovereignty and Lebanese laws. He added that this is something natural, which the PLO cannot oppose.

Qaddumi asserted: We support fraternal Lebanon, its people, and its legitimacy. We also support President al-Jumayyil's efforts to rebuild an independent and unified Lebanon on the basis of positive neutrality.

Qaddumi pointed out that his discussions with President Amin al-Jumayyil dealt with the coordination of stands on the anticipated Arab summit to be held in Amman. He stated: Arab solidarity, the unity of Arab ranks, and the resolution of differences are undoubtedly essential. Lebanon is directly involved in this. We in the PLO seek Arab solidarity and joint action. We believe that the Amman conference will be directed toward unity and joint action to overcome various Arab crises.

During his talks with President al-Jumayyil, Qaddumi was accompanied by Zuhdi al-Tarazi and Shafiq al-Hut.

Phalangist Party 'Conflict' in 'Full Swing'

NC301810 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Resignations from the Phalangist Party are now occurring with increasing frequency. The conflict within the party is in full swing. Following the resignations of the party's secretary general, Charle Dahdah, and Political Bureau member Joseph Abu Khalil, another member of the Political Bureau has announced his resignation. Sami Shuwayri described his action as a gesture of solidarity with the party's secretary general, whose resignation was accepted yesterday. Shuwayri said: We reject the dictatorial and sectarian way in which the party is being run. We vainly tried to make Dr George Sa'adah leader of the whole party. He insisted, however, on being leader of one group within the party. Consequently, the other group has the right to search for another leader.

Sources close to Amin al-Jumayyil have stated that more resignations will be announced today. Party leader George Sa'adah's portraits have been removed from party offices in Al-Matn.

Sources in the Lebanese Forces anticipate certain major developments in the Phalangist Party within the next few hours which, they say, will influence the situation in the eastern areas.

5 Officials Reportedly Resign

NC302123 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] The heads of five Phalangist departments submitted their resignations this evening in solidarity with Phalangist Party Secretary General Charle Dahdah and Political Bureau members Joseph Abu Khalil and Sami Shuwayri. The five who have resigned are: Sim'an Karam, Bassam Abu Fadil, George Khayyat, Salim Zaraziri, and George (?Munafi').

It has been learned that Phalangist Party officials have contacted President Amin al-Jumayyil, who is currently in New York, to brief him on the new developments. After receiving information that Samir Ja'ja' had moved his forces in a number of mountain areas in preparation to intervene on behalf of George Sa'adah, these Phalangist Party officials have instructed armed Phalangist personnel in the areas under their control to be ready for any eventuality and to put themselves at Fu'ad Abu Nadir's disposal.

It has been reported that the party's new secretary general, Munir al-Haj, has been contacted in an attempt to persuade him to relinquish his post. It also has been reported that George 'Umayrah, deputy leader of the party, (?Rafiq Ghanim), member of the party Political Bureau, and Pierre Sayigh, head of the Beirut department, have been asked to submit their resignations.

SSNP Reportedly To Dispatch Fighters to Libya

NC010735 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] A spokesman for the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] has stated that 250 party members will leave for Libya from Damascus to take part in the war against Chad. He noted that a contract signed between Libya and Lebanese leftist parties for this arrangement is valid for 6 months and is renewable. The spokesman noted that officers will receive $1,500 in pay, while NCO's will get $1,200.

Labor Federation Decides on 'General Strike'

NC301635 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Excerpt] General Labor Federation Chairman Antoine Bisharah has announced that the follow-up committee has decided to adopt the principle of civil disobedience, to be carried out in stages, and an open general strike. The federation called for freezing the decision to lift gasoline subsidies until the following demands are met: allocating sufficient funds to government schools and the Lebanese university; freezing tuition fees for the 1987-88 school year; adopting an automatic adjustment to salaries according to a practical cost of living index; and

issuing a decree adjusting all salaries in accordance with the federation's index and applying it to everyone, including all public and private sector workers and teachers.

In an interview with the *Reuter* news agency following today's national labor federation conference, Bisharah said: The call for civil disobedience means no cooperation with the state in any activity, the nonpayment of tariffs and taxes, the resort to courts, and the refusal by rank-and-file employees to take orders from their superiors. He added that the implementation of the first stage of civil disobedience will start tomorrow; namely, the refusal to pay taxes. He said: A state that does not give anything does not deserve to get anything. [passage omitted]

Paqraduni News Conference on Nation's Crisis

NC301436 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1110 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Statement by Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, followed by questions from unidentified reporters in Beirut on 30 September—recorded]

[Text] I would like to take this opportunity to thank French officials and leaders for the hospitality and understanding they accorded me. I would also like to commend the work of the Lebanese Forces' Foreign Relations Department, headed by Dr Cizar Nasr, and especially the Lebanese Forces office in France and West Europe, run by Dr Antoine Basbus. I want to express my gratitude to the French, Arab, and particularly the Lebanese press, both supporters and opponents.

Colleagues and reporters: I will not allow myself to speak of the official French position or on behalf of the French Government, nor will I disclose the content of my talks in France. Let it suffice to highlight four common guidelines among the main French parties and officials. These guidelines are:

1. Realizing the importance of the historical relationship between France and Lebanon and considering France's role and involvement in Lebanon vis-a-vis its influence in the Middle East. In practice, this means that French policymakers are interested in Lebanon's future and its current crisis, regardless of any foreign influences or domestic changes.

2. Basing concern on the need for a quick solution to the Lebanese crisis to preserve the country's unity, national independence, and free political, economic, and educational system. This also refers to French establishments operating in Lebanon. I expect this aid to arrive in Lebanon in the forseeable future.

3. Maintaining concern about the continuing deterioration of the political, economic, social, and educational situation in Lebanon resulting from foreign interference in its domestic affairs. This means that France is prepared to find the necessary framework for an international overture to help Lebanon deal with foreign interference on its territory. I expect France to open the Lebanese file in June after the presidential elections there.

4. Supporting the Lebanese legitimacy represented by the president of the Republic and emphasizing the need for a constitutional transfer of power through elections according to constitutional norms. This means that France will continue contacts with all competent parties concerned with the Lebanese crisis and will encourage inter-Lebanese accord.

With regard to the Lebanese Forces' proposals in France, they can be summarized in two points:

1. There can be no solution to the Lebanese crisis prior to the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese armies and organizations from all Lebanese territory.

2. There can be no solution to the Lebanese crisis except through the framework of an effective Arab and international initiative.

We address a realistic and quiet message to Syria from a position of responsibility and declare:

1. The Lebanese Forces do not oppose the Syrians as a people, the Syrian state as a neighbor, or the Syrian regime or its president. We oppose Syrian military and political interference in our domestic affairs. We oppose Syria's presence in Lebanon and Lebanese subservience to Syria.

2. Syria entered Lebanon as a mediator, and we accepted it. Syria then turned into a party to the conflict, and we tolerated this unwillingly. Syria, however, has now become an occupational force, which we reject in principle and will resist. Instead of promoting a solution, Syria has become a thorny knot.

3. Syrian Army personnel in Lebanon total 35,000. They are led by 9 generals, and 12 brigadier generals and colonels, not to mention an unspecified number of intelligence officers. Syrian forces are composed of 8 regiments of special forces; 2 artillery brigades with approximatley 300 field artillery pieces; 2 armored brigades with approximately 400 T-55 and T-62 tanks, in addition to SAM missiles, Milan missiles, antiarmor and antiaircraft arms, and medium and light weapons. The size of this military entity means that Syria is occupying Lebanon by force and is not here with the political approval of the Lebanese people.

4. Syria has proven that it is pursuing a dicriminatory policy among Lebanese sects and is boycotting legitimate establishments. Syria deliberately adopts a discriminatory policy between Christians and Muslims. It is boycotting the legitimate government and obstructing legitimate establishments, beginning with the Army, the Presidency, the courts, and the Chamber of Deputies. Syria is now occupying two-thirds of Lebanon—65 percent, and dominating two-thirds of the three top posts: speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; and the Prime Ministry. Through its occupation of two-thirds of the land Syria is trying to overthrow the last third; namely, our area. Through its domination of these top posts Syria has for 2 years obstructed the Presidency in the hope of overthrowing it or seizing control of it in 1988.

5. Syria has not been content with occupation. It has begun annexing occupied Lebanese territory. I would like to cite one example of this: one zone of the occupied Lebanese territory, the north. I want to cite an economic example from the north. What is happening in northern Lebanon economically? The Syrians are seeking to form a civil committee, as Walid Junblatt has done in Al-Shuf. They are forming this committee from among local leaders to run all affairs in Tripoli, as if Tripoli were preparing to secede.

6. The Syrians are preparing to take hold of the port of Tripoli. They have actually begun this process. A Syrian team, composed of senior officials in the Syrian Ministries of Economy and Trade, has conducted a study on the possibility of Syrian authorities' taking over the port of Tripoli. A number of Lebanese officials who have failed to respond to this plan have been dismissed and replaced by employees from the Syrian Customs Department.

7. Raw material is being imported to the Shikka cement factory. After these materials are processed, they are shipped to Syria. Some 60 Syrian trucks travel from Tripoli to Damascus daily. The Syrians have placed their hands on the Tripoli refinery. No quantity of oil can be distributed without a permit from Syrian intelligence. The bulk of the production goes to Syria. Gasoline at service stations is at the disposal of the Syrian forces. A number of bakeries have been taken over and are not allowed to sell bread to citizens. All of it is taken to Syria or distributed to the Syrian Army.

8. Even more serious is the fact that Syria is responsibile for exporting the Iranian revolution to Lebanon. There is a strategic understanding between Syria and Iran concerning the region and Lebanon. They may differ over certain issues at times, but it is a mistake to believe that Damascus will strike at Hizballah or the Revolutionary Guards in Lebanon. The Syrians began exporting the Iranian revolution to Lebanon in 1982. I will cite examples: On 16 June 1982, three aircraft landed at Damascus airport with 500 Revolutionary Guard volunteers. They were taken via Al-Masna' by the Syrian Army to Al-Biqa'. Since then several more batches have come to Lebanon. The last batch, composed of 100 volunteers, arrived in January 1986. The number of Revolutionary Guards who have come from Damascus is 2,500. They are now controlling approximately 10,000 Shi'ite cadres. The transfer of arms and ammunition by the Syrian Army to the Revolutionary Guards has been going on since 1982. The last shipment arrived in July and August of this year, when Syrian military trucks brought ammunition to the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in Ba'labakk.

Exporting the Islamic revolution to Lebanon poses a danger to the Lebanese Republic and is a serious situation for all Arab countries. The Islamic revolution is not a plan for a revolution but for an empire. It is not a plan for an Islamic revolution but for a Persian empire at the expense of Muslims and Arabs. Naturally, this includes Lebanese Muslims, both Sunnis and Shi'ites, and all other Lebanese.

In light of this objective review, the Lebanese Forces support three calls:

1. For an international conference to resolve the Lebanese crisis or an international conference on the Middle East crisis in which the Lebanese crisis is considered a major and independent item on the agenda.

2. For an Arab summit where the entire Lebanese problem, not only the south, can be studied in detail as a main item. The Arabs can agree on solving it because they are basically responsible for it.

3. For a people's referendum, under Arab and international supervision, on the Lebanese people's position on the foreign occupation of their land. I am sure that the vast majority of Lebanese—both Muslims and Christians—will vote for the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese armies and organizations and for the establishment of an independent Lebanese state.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Paqraduni] Colleagues, the Lebanese resistance, like all resistance movements throughout the world, have a secret diplomacy which I will not disclose. I want to exploit this question and underline the Lebanese Forces' position on the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. This position is based upon three foundations:

1. We reject any armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon and any military operations conducted from Lebanon;

2. We demand that the Palestinian camps in Lebanon be disarmed. The Lebanese Forces believe that the Lebanese Army, with the support of the UN forces, can protect the disarmed camps and the Palestinian civilian population; and

3. We stress our rejection of all plans that seek to settle the Palestinians in Lebanon. We consider the Palestinian presence to be a temporary one until the Palestinian problem is solved.

[Correspondent] Undoubtedly, the Soviet position occupied an important part of the talks you had with senior French officials. Certain people maintain that there is a common belief that aggreement on a president should be the result of an international aggreement; namely, a U.S.-Western-Syrian understanding. Such a president would have to be someone who does not necessarily constitute a challenge to the Christians. Would you support such an aggreement in the run-up to the presidential elections which would include a minimal aggreement with Syria on such a president?

[Paqraduni] With regard to the presidential elections, we base our position on three principles:

1. The need to hold the elections on the day set by the Constitution; not before or after. We will not agree to early elections to cut short President al-Jumayyil's term or to any obstruction to the elections that would seek to create a vacuum after Al-Jumayyil's term is over;

2. The need to unify Christian ranks on one presidential candidate who will be chosen at the appropriate time, in May; and

3. The need to make use of the period preceding the presidential elections to find a political settlement. We want a settlement before the elections from which a strong president will emerge. We do not want a weak president who will prolong the crisis for another 6 years.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Paqraduni] There is greater understanding of the Lebanese position, particularly the Lebanese Forces stand on two points: The Lebanese by themselves are incapable of solving their problem because of foreign occupations. Consequently, Lebanon needs international help to solve it. There is understanding about this. The second point is that solving the Lebanese crisis begins with the termination of the Israeli, Syrian, Iranian, and Palestinian occupations. These two points have become international constants. The two points are tantamount to UN resolutions. They are also decisions agreed on by the nonaligned and Arab countries. As a result of these two points, a solution to Lebanon's problem has become closer. France supports both these decisions.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Paqraduni] There is no doubt that there would be an international multifaceted action. There are now three pending issues in the Middle East: the Gulf war; the Lebanese war; and the Arab-Israeli conflict. All initiatives, beginning with Gorbachev's initiative on the international conference, to the recommendations being made at the United Nations, focus on the need for an international conference to resolve these three interlinked conflicts. Frankly, these three conflicts are connected to the Lebanese crisis.

[Correspondent] This means that Paris is the first leg of a tour of other capitals which have an effective role to play with respect to the situation in Lebanon. Are you preparing to undertake another tour of other capitals to stimulate these overtures? If you are, which countries are you planning to visit?

[Paqraduni] Certainly, after we have stabilized the internal situation. Do not be misled. The most important thing is the internal position. Any country that lacks a stable and firm internal situation lacks credibility abroad. Following the stabilization of the internal situation [in East Beirut], we can now go abroad. Paris was the first stop on our itinerary. We will certainly visit other capitals.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Paqraduni] There is continuous coordination between President al-Jumayyil and the Lebanese front. In fact, there is more than just coordination. Specifically, an alliance exists between the president of the Republic and the Lebanese Forces with respect to the main options. We are now involved in one plan; namely, to oust all occupiers from Lebanese territory.

[Correspondent] With military force?

[Paqraduni] With all available forces. According to international law, the Lebanese resistance has the right to confront the occupiers with all the political and military means at its disposal.

[Correspondent] During your visit to Paris, was there any talk about the specifications of the president of the Republic [words indistinct].

[Paqraduni] As Lebanese Forces, we will not unilaterally declare the name of a president or the name of our candidate for president. We consider ourselves part of a broadly based political group. We believe that the single president or candidate who will represent the Christian public will be chosen by the Lebanese Front and by the president of the Republic. As Lebanese Forces, we will not unilaterally declare our support for a person or nominate a candidate.

[Correspondent] What is democracy's role in the presidential election process?

[Paqraduni] Democracy's role is that the Chamber of Deputies must elect one of the candidates.

[Correspondent] According to what you have just said, consensus on one candidate is a form of repressing democracy [words indistinct].

[Paqraduni] Let us differentiate between two things. When the Right or the Left in France agree today on one candidate, is that considered to be a repression of democracy in France? We consider ourselves to be a broadly based political sector. As Lebanese we have one aim; namely, to get all the non-Lebanese armies and organizations out of Lebanon. We will meet as the largest Christian and Muslim Lebanese bloc and agree on one candidate to face any other potential candidate. The other candidate might be Syrian-backed. This is the democratic game. Any division in our ranks is wrong since a principal basis for the democratic election process is the unity of our ranks.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Paqraduni] If an attempt were made to thwart the presidential elections, to bring down the last symbol of Lebanon's legitimate authority—the independent state—then we would consider it to be the president of the Republic's national duty, even his constitutional right, to form a government that would be led by a Christian. This happened during the presidency of Shaykh Bisharah al-Khuri when he resigned. This government would be in charge during the transitional stage leading to presidential elections.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that Patriarch Sfayr's visit to the Vatican, Moscow, and Paris is, in principle, in line with your initiatives, or does it represent an independent plan?

[Paqraduni] On the contrary, any trip abroad by a Lebanese is necessary. The most important thing is to make certain that the Lebanese issue is not forgotten on the international level.

Afghanistan

PDPA Elects Revolutionary Council President

Keshtmand Proposes Najib

LD302008 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Speech by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, at a routine session of the DRA Revolutionary Council held in Kabul on 30 September—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed members of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The Revolutionary Council, as the highest organ of state sovereignty, has and will discharge properly all its duties on the basis of the authority and tasks allotted to this organ by the DRA Basic Principles. The endeavors of esteemed Haji Muhammad Chamkani to discharge these duties are appreciable. Irrespective of this, the Politburo, while assessing the activities of the highest organs of state sovereignty, has reached the conclusion that under the present complicated situation in the country, the post of president of the Revolutionary Council cannot and must not remain vacant. The PDPA Central Committee Politburo has reached this conclusion.

This need can be summarized as follows: Under the complicated circumstances of national reconciliation and state affairs, both domestic and foreign, which are many times [word indistinct] and important, these should be discharged through the state leadership and not through its acting president. I think that this decision is correct and everyone agrees with it.

Who is suitable for this position ?

All strata of our country's inhabitants can considered in selecting a candidate for the country's leading role. However, irrespective of the implementation of a multiparty system in the country, only a representative of the PDPA Central Committee can hold this position. Why? Because the PDPA is the only overt political party today. It was the organizer of the April Revolution and the spirit of the policy of national reconciliation. In addition to this, in accordance with the DRA Basic Principles, the PDPA will remain as a guiding and directing force in society.

You agree that all these points provide full legal authority to the PDPA to submit a candidate for this position. The Politburo has assessed the issue of submitting a candidate for this post. First and foremost, I repeat that the only candidate mentioned for the post of president of the DRA Revolutionary Council is Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. [applause]

All of you know Comrade Najib very well; therefore, an elaborate introduction is not necessary. I would only like to mention that Comrade Najib, who was elected general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee by the 18th Plenum of the Central Committee, has commenced work as a party leader. He has relentlessly executed the policy of national reconciliation and defended the country's ideals and traditions.

Comrade Najib enjoys authority and enormous admiration within the party, among the people, and among our friends.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo proposes that Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, be elected president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. I hand over the draft decision with the following contents to the session's presidency:

The DRA Revolutionary Council, in accordance with Article 38 of the DRA Basic Principles, endorses Dr Najib as elected president of the Revolutionary Counci. It agrees that esteemed Haji Muhammad Chamkani again discharge his former duties as first vice president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium. Thank you.

Najib Elected President

LD301238 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Kabul, 30 Sep (*Bakhtar*)—A routine session of the DRA Revolutionary Council was held today at the Revolutionary Council Headquarters. Organizational matters were discussed at the meeting. The session also heard a report from the Revolutionary Council Presidium on the work of this organ during the first 6 months of the year and approved the decrees issued since the last meeting.

The session unanimously elected Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, to the posts of president of the DRA Revolutionary Council and chairman of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The esteemed Haji Muhammad Chamkani was elected first vice chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The following all spoke at the meeting: Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Saleh Muhammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; Muhammad Rafi', member of the Politburo and DRA minister of defense; Seyyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, member of the Politburo and DRA minister of internal affairs; Mawlawi Ghulam Sarwar Manzur, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ulema and Religious Leaders; and Ruh Afza, a worker.

Najib Acceptance Speech

LD301426 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Kabul, 30 Sep (*Bakhtar*)—Here is the text of the statement by Comrade Dr Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, at today's meeting of the DRA Revolutionary Council:

Esteemed members of the Revolutionary Council, esteemed members of the Politburo, comrades, and friends.

Allow me to express my great gratitude to you, and through you to all the toiling people of Afghanistan, for the great trust that the Revolutionary Council has placed in me. From my heart I thank the comrades who spoke good words about our party and about myself.

The post of president of the Revolutionary Council is not only an honorable duty, but a very responsible job. All the roots of popular sovereignty meet in the Revolutionary Council and its Presidium. All important matters of the country, be it laws or the approval of state plans and budget, the approval of the basic aspects of the country's domestic and foreign policy, or the approval of the state programs, are resolved there.

Therefore, I know how great is the additional responsibility for the destiny of the people which has been entrusted to me. This responsibility is of special importance in the second phase of the policy of national reconciliation under the conditions of a multiparty system and a coalition. In the present situation, therefore, the holding of such a high position is not a simple task. However, I rely on your help, understanding, and consistent support in this matter.

What questions should we solve in the near and distant future? Tasks which should be completed in the near future are the promulgation of the Constitution in the DRA Grand Assembly, and the election of the president and members of the National Assembly.

The high legislative body and the organ of state sovereignty in the country are dutybound to accomplish the great volume of work and should assist in the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and the evolution of law-making in Afghanistan.

In conclusion, allow me to assure the DRA Revolutionary Council, the people, and the party that I will devote all my energy, knowledge, and strength to the great tasks you have given me in order to achieve peace, as soon as possible, in our persecuted country and the true enhancement of the people's living standards. With this high ideal for our people, I begin my duty.

'Abdol Wakil Addresses UN General Assembly

LD301335 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Text] Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, member of the Politburo and DRA minister of foreign affairs, made a speech at the UN General Assembly yesterday morning. With regard to international problems, he said: The problems being discussed at this session are serious and difficult. However, no one doubts that the danger of a nuclear catastrophe and the policy of the use of force are the major causes of anxiety for all nations, for all prudent and realistic politicians, and for all humanitarian and peace-loving peoples of the world. The solution to these problems requires new political thought.

Concerning the present economic situation in the world, Comrade Wakil noted: The present economic situation is linked with the continuing hysterical arms race. Only a reduction in and discontinuation of this race can secure the required funds for an improvement in the world's economic situation. As long as international economic security is not regarded as an inseparable part of the general international security system and is not respected, success in bringing about a rapid and durable rate of growth and the creation of a new and just economic system will not be possible.

With regard to the need for the full achievement of reconciliation in the DRA, he asserted: In order to eliminate the present situation, every patriotic Afghan must take action. Displaying determination and a new way of political thinking, he should devote all his energy toward ending the war and the bloodshed, and to achieve the restoration of peace and calm in the country. This determination and new way of political thinking have entered into a practical stage through the policy of national reconciliation, which has been conducted since 15 January 1987.

This policy fully conforms with the principles of humanity, Islam, Afghanism, the UN Charter, and the Declaration of Human Rights.

Concerning past resolutions of the UN General Assembly and a political solution to the events around Afghanistan, the minister of foreign affairs said: Those resolutions did not secure a guarantee for ending the interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs—the main cause of the present tense situation. Therefore, we ask all those who are taking part in this session to choose a way to assist in solving this issue and not to prevent it.

I would like to assure the esteemed delegates that the DRA is prepared to choose a constructive stand toward a resolution and to assist in the preparation of a resolution which (?helps) to solve the events around Afghanistan in a timely way, providing that it conforms with the

interests of all countries, of our people, and of neighboring countries; maintains peace and security in the region and in the world; and in no way damages the national interests of another country.

Confers With Counterparts

LD302330 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Comrade 'Abdol Wakil, member of the PDPA Central Committee and DRA minister of foreign affairs, today met with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar at the United Nations.

Yesterday, Comrade 'Abdol Wakil met with Diego Cordovez, assistant UN secretary general. At these meetings, views were exchanged on subjects of mutual interest, including recent developments concerning a political solution to the situation facing Afghanistan.

According to another report, the DRA minister of foreign affairs met separately at the United Nations with Upadhyaya, Nepalese minister of foreign affairs; Faruq al-Shari, Syrian minister of foreign affairs; Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Algerian minister of foreign affairs; 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of foreign affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen; and Berhanu Bayeh, Ethiopian minister of foreign affairs.

At these meetings, views were exchanged on international issues and bilateral relations. Comrade 'Abdol Wakil briefed the foreign ministers on the policy of national reconciliation and its achievements. The foreign ministers then expressed their support for the policy of national reconciliation, noting that this policy is a proper and rational method for ending the war in our country.

India

Reportage on Natwar Singh's UN Activities

Notes Fiji Coup

BK300715 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] India has voiced serious concern over the latest developments in Fiji and called for the island nation's early return to democracy and the rule of law. Addressing the 42d annual session of the UN General Assembly, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said the happenings in Fiji have distinct and unacceptable racial overtones. He said it is particularly tragic for just when Fiji's political parties had reached an agreement aimed at national reconciliation their effort was thwarted by the second coup.

Mr Natwar Singh pointed out that the attempts to deprive citizens of their legitimate rights on the basis of their racial origin are against all tenets of democracy and human rights and are contrary to the UN Charter.

Meets With Shultz

BK300659 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, now on a visit to the United States, met the U.S. secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, yesterday. They are reported to have discussed the forthcoming visit of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to the United States. Mr Shultz told Mr Singh that President Reagan looks forward to Mr Gandhi's visit.

Talks with Wu Xueqian

BK010907 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] India and China have expressed the hope that the forthcoming eighth round of talks on the boundary issue will produce concrete results. The Chinese foreign minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, shared this view during their meeting in New York last night. Both the ministers are there in connection with the UN General Assembly session. The two ministers expressed the desire to have friendly and good-neighborly ties. Ways to increase trade, scientific and technological exchanges, and the situation in the Asian region and international issues also figured in the talks.

'Terrorists' Kill 9, Wound 3 in Punjab Attack

BK010800 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] A PTI report from Chandigarh says that terrorists shot down at least nine persons and seriously injured three others at village Masania near Batala in Gurdaspur District late last night. The agency quoting an official spokesman said two terrorists armed with automatic weapons fired indiscriminately while driving through the village killing all the nine persons on the spot. Further details are awaited.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr Krishen Lal Sharma, has suggested that Army's help should be sought to control terrorism in Punjab. He again reiterated his party's demand for a security belt along the Punjab border with Pakistan. He urged the state government to order a surrender of all licensed and unlicensed arms.

Bombay Naval Security Guards Injured in Clash

BK300719 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] In Bombay, security guards of the naval dock yard had to fire in the air to disperse mob of civilian employees of the yard yesterday. No one was injured in the firing. However, about eight security guards sustained injury in the heavy stone throwing by the demonstrators. Fifteen persons have been arrested. The situation is now under control.

Pakistan Criticized for Raising Kashmir Issue

BK301241 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 29 Sep 87

[Commentary by A. Balu, PTI foreign editor: "Pakistan and the Kashmir Question"]

[Text] For Pakistan, the so-called Kashmir question has become a hardy annual at the United Nations. At every General Assembly session, the Pakistani foreign minister harps on what India regards as a non-issue. Last week, Pakistan's prime minister, Mr Junejo, used the UN forum during the general debate on the international situation to bring up the question, flouting the commitment of his government to resolve all issues between India and Pakistan bilaterally. Mr Junejo told the General Assembly that Pakistan remained committed to a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir question on the basis of the UN resolutions which will usher in a new era of complete normalization and durable peace as envisaged in the Simla Agreement. Mr Junejo prefaced his reference to Jammu and Kashmir by declaring that Pakistan desired peaceful and cooperative relations with India and that Islamabad looked forward to early resumption of dialogue with New Delhi.

It was probably for the first time that Pakistan sought to invoke both the UN resolutions and the Simla Agreement with the apparent intention to preempt any reminder by India about Pakistan's commitment to the Simla Agreement. India promptly protested against Mr Junejo's reference to Kashmir. The Indian ambassador to the United Nations, Mr C.R.Gharekhan, called the attention of the world body to the Simla Agreement, which he said provided the basis for resolving all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan through bilateral negotiations and peaceful means. India, therefore, regretted the reference by the Pakistani prime minister to the so-called Kashmir question. Mr Gharekhan pointed out that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had repeatedly declared that it was the highest priority of the Indian Government to live in peace and friendship with all neighbors, including Pakistan.

Mr Gharekhan told the General Assembly that it was with great reluctance that the Indian delegation felt compelled to exercise its right of reply to Mr Junejo's comments. Pakistan's deputy permanent representative at the United Nations, Mr Shaukat Umar, responded to Mr Gharekhan to reassert that the issue remained unresolved and should be settled in accordance with UN resolutions consistent with the spirit of the Simla Agreement. He, however, failed to explain how the two could be reconciled since the Simla Agreement laid emphasis on bilateral negotiations. That Pakistan should choose to avail of every available international forum to rake up the Kashmir question is deplorable, but not surprising.

Earlier this year, President Ziaul Haq used the Islamic summit in Kuwait to bring up the issue by suggesting that the process of normalization of relations with India needed the surmounting of, what he called, several obstacles including the so-called dispute over Jammu and Kashmir. He said his country would continue to strive for a settlement in accordance with UN resolutions and in the spirit of the Simla Agreement. It is interesting to note that Mr Junejo used the same phrase at the United Nations. In July this year General Zia expressed himself in favor of a worldwide propaganda on the Kashmir question and he chose to describe Kashmir as a jugular vein of Pakistan. During his visit to Pak-occupied Kashmir General Zia refrained from mentioning the Simla Agreement.

It is pertinent to recall that after his meeting with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi in December 1985, General Zia had said that the Kashmir question would be resolved eventually in accordance with the Simla Agreement and that it would not be permitted to halt progress on other issues. But within a month of his declaration, the ruling Pakistan Muslim League Council under the chairmanship of Mr Junejo adopted a resolution that the Kashmir question should be resolved expeditiously in terms of UN resolutions. This was done when the then Indian foreign secretary, Romesh Bhandari, was in Islamabad for furtherance of bilateral talks.

It is possible to dismiss Pakistan's periodic persistence as an attempt to keep alive a question that so far as India is concerned remains only to the extent that Pakistan has to vacate a part of Kashmir. India has repeatedly made it clear to the international community that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of its territory. While India continues its efforts to normalize relations with Pakistan, Islamabad's aberrations on the so-called Kashmir question will only have the effect of vitiating the atomosphere for any meaningful dialogue between the two neighboring countries. It is high time for Pakistan to give up its obsession with Kashmir unless it is naive enough to expect that progress can be made toward complete normalization of relations with India even when raising an irrelevant bogey.

Iran

2 Ships Attacked in Persian Gulf

LD302115 Tehran IRNA in English 2112 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—Two ships were attacked in the Persian Gulf waters Wednesday evening. Informed Navy sources told IRNA that the two ships by relaying radio messages announced that they have been hit. There are no precise reports yet on the nationalities of the ships and how they were attacked.

According to taped conversations there were probably some American warships moving around the targets and messages were exchanged between the attacked ships and the U.S. warships.

Musavi Assails Weinberger's Remarks

LD010736 Tehran IRNA in English 0722 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] Esfahan, Oct. 1, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Thursday that recent remarks of the U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger indicated America's blatant interference in Iran's affairs. "We will make the U.S. sorry for these remarks," he vowed.

Speaking to reporters upon his arrival here, the prime minister said Weinberger's statements further revealed America's aggressive nature and why it was fighting with Iran.

Musavi stressed that the U.S. official's remarks violated its undertakings vis-a-vis the 1981 Algiers accord which secured the release of the former American hostages in Iran.

The prime minister, accompanied by Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mohammad Farhadi, arrived here to attend the graduation ceremony of Esfahan University and to meet with provincial officials.

Velayati Message to ICO on U.S. 'Aggression'

LD011214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati has sent a message to Mr Pirzada, secretary general of the ICO, about the aggressive and illegal U.S. attack on the Iranian commercial vessel *Iran-Ajr*.

The message by the Iranian minister of foreign affairs says: The fanning of the flames of war in the Persian Gulf—a war begun by Iraq, constantly supported and encouraged by the United States, and intensified by recent U.S. aggression—has led the entire region into a dangerous and explosive situation. The message adds: The U.S. role in attempting to nullify efforts by the UN secretary general is dubious and should be carefully scrutinized. The U.S. Government has stopped at nothing to obstruct the UN secretary general's efforts. The secretary general's consultations in Tehran had not yet ended when the U.S. Government announced that those consultations had produced no results. U.S. officials are in fact trying to use the United Nations to further their hostile policies against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The message continues: Toward this end, the United States has continued to pressure other countries to coordinate their efforts in preventing the success of the secretary general's efforts. The presence of the U.S. fleet and its provocative military acts—especially the unreasonable attack on a civilian Iranian ship, the killing and wounding of its crew, and the destruction of the ship—are clear violations of the national sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran and pose a great danger to the security of the entire region. It is, without doubt, a violation of the peace.

On the basis of Article 51 of the UN Charter, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves the right of self-defense and announces that the United States will be responsible for all the consequences of its aggressive adventurism. Such actions are contrary to Clauses 1, 2, and 4 of the ICO Charter; and if they succeed, they will make a military solution the only possible solution.

The message from the minister of foreign affairs concludes: Therefore, on the basis of Clause 4 on the goals of the ICO Charter, the situation has placed a serious and undeniable responsibility on that conference to condemn aggressive U.S. moves and to adopt necessary measures to stop such criminal acts.

War Information Headquarters Warns Iraq

LD010548 Tehran IRNA in English 0534 GMT 1 Oct 87

["WIH Issues Stern Warning to Iraq"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—The War Information Headquarters (WIH) in a statement Wednesday warned that if the Baghdad regime continues its acts of mischief, all Iraqi cities including Baghdad will become target "of our Muslim forces' crushing blows."

The statement added that escalation of Iraqi air raids on Iran's industrial, labor and residential quarters resulting in martyrdom and injuring of hundreds of innocent civilians, proved that Iraq was determined to spread the tension to outside the war fronts.

Iran's Muslim combatants, the statement noted, by carrying out restricted reprisal attacks on Iraqi military and industrial installations in purely military areas, have proved they are not willing to expand the war outside the battlefields.

But, it stressed, the Iraqi regime has intensified its attacks on civilian and residential quarters and even on Tuesday attacked an area in the suburbs of Tehran.

Therefore, in continuation of their retaliatory measures, Iran's Muslim forces are determined to intensify their deterrent operations in an effort to force the Baghdad regime to cease its attacks and atrocities, the statement said.

The War Information Headquarters reiterated that if the Iraqi regime continues its mischievous acts and as soon as an Iranian economic, industrial or residential area is attacked as of Wednesday, all Iraqi economic, industrial and military targets, as well as those in Baghdad, would be severely hit by Muslim forces.

The statement urged Iraqi people that in case Iraqi attacks continued they should immediately evacuate areas adjacent to economic, industrial and military installations and rush to the four Iraqi religious cities (Karbala', Najaf, Kathamein [name as received], and Samarra) to be immune.

Of course, it stressed, the Iraqi regime would be responsible for all the consequences of Iranian reprisal attacks.

It once again warned international circles of escalating Iraqi attacks on Iranian non-military areas which the statement said were no doubt carried out through U.S. intelligence cooperation and noted it would only spread the war in the region.

"Therefore," the statement said "it is the responsibility of all international bodies, especially the U.N., to take a proper stance against these tension-seeking Iraqi measures before it gets too late."

Defense Personnel 'Neutralized' Arms Embargo

LD301118 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] During this morning's cabinet session, which was attended by members of the country's General Defense Staff, issues related to the country's defense status were discussed, ideas were exchanged, and decisions were made. The cabinet praised the all-out efforts of the defense personnel, the extensive activities of the Air Force's self-sufficiency struggle, and the defense industries' organization, whose initiative and technical innovations have neutralized the effects of the arms embargo imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

During today's cabinet session, Mr Seyyed Kya, the roads and transport minister, presented a report on the reconstruction of the Chalus road, which was extensively damaged during the recent flooding. The road was rebuilt, thanks to the relentless efforts of Roads and Transport Ministry employees.

During this session, the cabinet approved the allocation of 1.2 billion rials for the reconstruction of the areas damaged by floods and 1 billion rials to assist the drought-stricken regions.

Official Assails Ship Reregistration

LD301848 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—Iranian Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Kamal Genje'i called for drastic changes in international shipping regulations in a speech to the 74th meet of the International Labor Conference in Geneva Tuesday.

Describing the use of technology and sciences as "very helpful and necessary" for mankind, Ganje'i expressed regret that the principle of blind profit and ignorance of proper utilisation has served to turn the use of technology into a 'cause for crisis'.

Elsewhere in his speech, Ganje'i expressed regret that many countries are registering their ships in other countries' names in defiance of all international labor laws in a bid to escape paying taxes and duties on shipment of contrabands and to enforce their harmful political intents.

Commenting on the Iraqi-imposed war, the deputy labor and social affairs minister said the enemy (Iraqi regime) is attempting to make the Persian Gulf insecure in a bid to internationalize the war it imposed on Iran and escape its doomed fate.

He described Iran's demand for the identification and punishment of the aggressor party in the Iraqi-imposed war as an "ideological and undeniable" principle.

Representatives from 65 countries are participating in the conference which opened in Geneva last week.

USSR's Vorontsov Receives Envoy to Moscow

LD301442 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—It is customary for the U.S. to misuse its power for perpetrating criminal acts, said the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov referring to the Persian Gulf crisis.

In a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Naser Hayrani-Nobari in the Soviet capital Tuesday, Vorontsov briefed him on the recent session of the Security Council attended by the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and foreign ministers of the five permanent member countries.

Also discussed at the meeting were plans proposed in the U.N. Security Council, regional issues, and Tehran-Moscow cooperation.

Majlis Speaker Praises FRG Position on Gulf

LD301205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] The issues discussed in a meeting between the FRG ambassador and Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker, is the subject of our second news report today.

Mr Armin Freitag, the FRG ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, met this morning with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. The FRG ambassador said: I have been asked to convey my government's thanks regarding the release of German hostages in Lebanon. The fact that the

Iranian Government willingly and unconditionally provided its assistance is indicative of the level of relations existing between the two countries.

In expressing his government's satisfaction with recent discussions in New York between Mr Genscher, the FRG minister of foreign affairs, and President Khamene'i and Foreign Minister Velayati, the FRG ambassador said: The FRG Government thanks you for your positive position on the Security Council resolution. It is prepared to cooperate in resolving these problems.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: Regarding your nationals in Lebanon, we assisted and we stressed [sentence as heard]. However, your sensible step in not handing over the Lebanese to the Americans made a good impression on the Lebanese people. Moreover, when we used pressure, it proved effective.

The Majlis speaker added: We told the Lebanese not to discriminate between Germans and others. If Germany makes another sensible move, it will certainly be useful for the freedom of the second person. The Lebanese are so angry with others that they will not listen to anyone.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued: Regarding the recent Security Council resolution, we believe we have opened the door for those attempting to resolve the issue with goodwill. At the moment, the Security Council and the United Nations are facing a test. If they have goodwill, they will name Iraq as the side that started the war, just as your country did. A few years ago, Mr Genscher named Iraq as the aggressor, and this year he again emphasized his position. This is not a hard thing to do.

The representative of the imam on the Supreme Defense Council added: The Security Council and others do not wish to act in a just manner; this is why we are suspicious of them. The situation in the Persian Gulf that has been created by the United States and some NATO members has made us very suspicious of their intentions. We have prepared ourselves for a serious confrontation with them, because they have unjustly come to the Gulf. Our nation believes that because Iraq was unable to weaken the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States and her satellites have come forward. The presence of fleets in the Persian Gulf is one of the dangerous mistakes of the United States and the West.

In conclusion, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: All signs indicate that certain events are unavoidable. The U.S. move to attack the *Iran-Ajr* and sink it indicates several things. We think U.S. policy is being conducted by a number of ignorant and arrogant individuals; they are dragging Europe behind them. We are satisfied with the positions adopted by your country, and believe that you are acting in an intelligent manner.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Romanian Envoy

LD301720 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—Tehran and Bucharest enjoy healthy relations and Romanian officials are keenly following developments in the two countries ties, said Romanian Ambassador to Iran Ilie Casu in a meeting with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today.

Casu further said that Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu had condemned foreign intervention in the Persian Gulf, at a public gathering in Romania. Attack on the Iranian cargo ship was also condemned categorically in the gathering where Ceausescu urged all foreign forces to withdraw the region, Casu said. "Persian Gulf states should personally defend their interests," he stressed.

Elsewhere, the ambassador said that he had visited the 13th Tehran International Trade Fair concluded recently, and realised that contrary to popular imagination around the globe that Iran relies solely on oil, the Islamic Republic has gained considerable advances in industrial field.

Casu also hand delivered an invitation from Chairman of the Romanian Grand National Assembly Nicolae Giosan to the Majlis speaker for a visit to Romania.

In reply, Majlis speaker thanked President Ceausescu for his stance on condemning the U.S. intervention in the Persian Gulf as well as its attack on the Iranian cargo ship. He also said he wished to visit Romania at an appropriate opportunity. In spite of the good relations between the two countries, Hadshemi-Rafsanjani said we think bilateral ties could expand more since Iran has decided to reduce its relations with expansionist states. He said countries like Romania can naturally take the place of the U.S. and Britain tradewise for Iran. "This is our basic policy and is not likely to be changed," said the speaker.

Report on Argentine Trade Official's Visit

Shipping Accord Planned

LD301043 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—Iran and Argentina are to boost shipping cooperation and to this end a shipping agreement is to be concluded.

This was decided during a meeting of the visiting Argentinian Deputy Foreign Trade Minister Juan Ciminari with managing director of Iran's shipping company Mohammad Hoseyn Dajmar Tuesday.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues on mutual marine transportation and stressed further cooperation between the shipping companies of Iran and Argentina.

Ciminari arrived here Sunday night heading a ranking economic, and trade delegation.

Delegation Departs 30 Sep

NC011000 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] An Argentine commercial delegation headed by the deputy foreign trade minister left Tehran last night after a 3-day visit which included meetings with our country's high-ranking officials and the signing of a memorandum of understanding to expand trade relations and, in particular, to extend facilities necessary for cooperation between the countries' shipping companies.

The memorandum of understanding also included provisions for tax exemptions for shipping companies of both countries. An agreement was also signed for the purchase of about 1 million tonnes of grain from Argentina. Cooperation in the areas of fishing, petrochemicals, and agriculture was also discussed.

Iran and Argentina cooperate closely in foodstuff purchasing. Iran buys much of its raw soybean oil from Argentina.

Before leaving Tehran, the Argentine deputy foreign trade minister granted our correspondent an interview. He described talks with our officials on grain purchases as valuable. He said: During this visit, we became aware of the fact that many of Iran's non-oil products have good market potential in Argentina. Therefore, while facilitating Iran's participation in the Argentine International Fair, we will strive for Argentina's more active participation in Tehran's International Fair next year.

Our deputy commerce minister said in an interview with our correspondent: During this visit, we discussed cooperation in agriculture and on the sale of grain such as wheat and maize, raw oil, and soybeans. In addition, the purchase of about 1 million tonnes of grain from Argentina was finalized. He then described the tax exemptions for the two countries' shipping companies as a new phase in bilateral cooperation. Noting our country's non-oil exports to Argentina, such as dried fruits, pistachios, carpets, and handicrafts, he said: During this visit, the Argentine officials have become well acquainted with our non-oil exports.

Saudi Charge Summoned Over Mecca Corpses

LD011247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Saudi regime was summoned to Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday and a strong protest was made to him about the totally false remarks made by an official source in the Saudi Interior Ministry with regard to the transfer of the remaining bodies of martyrs from the bloody Mecca incident. Procrastinating over transferring the holy bodies of 59 martyrs from the hospitals in that country, despite repeated appeals by Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to transfer them to the Islamic homeland, the Saudi regime has used baseless excuses and unreasonable obstacles to prevent their transfer. This was condemned.

The remarks attributed to that source that the Islamic Republic of Iran has refused to take delivery of the corpses is completely rejected. Two months after that tragic incident that regime's officials have not yet replied to the official questions from relevant organizations.

While condemning and rejecting the totally false and baseless remarks by the responsible source in the Saudi Interior Ministry, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally states that under no circumstances does the Saudi Government have the right to bury the corpses of the remaining martyrs, and emphatically announces that this step would be completely rejected and condemned.

As in the past, the Islamic Republic of Iran announces its complete readiness to receive the martyrs' corpses, and places responsibility for any delay, procrastination, and obstacles on the Saudi regime. It should be noted that this is the second time the Saudi charge d'affaires has been summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry in the past 2 days.

Tehran Assails 'Explosive' U.S. Policies

NC011126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group: "U.S. Support for Iraq's Mischiefs"]

[Text] In its fresh efforts to exacerbate the tension in the region, the Iraqi regime has once again intensified its attacks on industrial-labor areas and on civilian urban centers. With its adventurism against oil tankers and commercial ships in the Persian Gulf, it has martyred and wounded more of our compatriots. Parallel to the Iraqi regime's attacks, the United States is trying to create tension with its interventionist policy aimed at exerting political and military pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. The recent visit to the area by U.S. officials, which followed the defeat of U.S. policy at the United Nations and which stemmed from fears of the consequences of the 21 September attack on the Iranian ship, should be discussed within this context.

News agencies report that yesterday the U.S. State Department announced that Secretary of State Shultz and the foreign ministers of Bahrain and Iraq had agreed to keep up the pressure on Iran. Weinberger's visits in the area and his babblings, which exhibit the expanionist policy of the United States and its plan to intervene in

the affairs of the world's countries, prove that the United States will try anything in order to implement its explosive policies and preserve its illegal interests in various areas.

Iran's Foreign Ministry sent a letter to the president of the UN Security Council through Dr Velayati, indicating that the exacerbation of tension in the Persian Gulf is a result of the U.S. presence there. The letter stated that the United States' blatant violation of Resolution No 598 and its hostile and interfering acts against Islamic Iran have resulted in the current dangerous and explosive situation and are the main source of rising tensions in the region. The letter also called on the Security Council president to clearly oppose and seriously strive to prevent such acts.

Diplomatic efforts by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past month have created a new atmosphere for the nations of the world, especially for some permanent members of the Security Council. The Islamic Republic's clear and sensible logic has opened clear vistas in their minds and has rendered ineffective Saddam's fabricated propaganda on peace in international forums.

Baghdad's continued attacks on cities and oil tankers, discussions in the foreign media on the renewed attacks by the Iraqi regime against Islamic Iran on the anniversary of the imposed war, and the current heated UN debates have once again revealed the aggressive face of the Iraqi regime. Tension in the region is continuing at a time when the United States, as a permanent member of the Security Council, is trying to implement the second phase of the Council's decision on an arms embargo against Iran. Differences of opinion among the permanent members, which have deepened with opposition from China and the Soviet Union, indicate that the Security Council does not agree now, as it did previously, with the U.S. policy on approving Resolution No 598 in support of the Baghdad regime. The United States is under great pressure and is attempting—with its direct presence in the region and its adventurisms—to make up for its defeats on the political scene.

Nevertheless, in addition to the victories scored on the political scene in the last month by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the fighters of Islam have now taken aim at the heart of the plot. Their extensive and unprecedented response to go to the fronts and the many battalions that have already left are examples of some of the necessary preparations being made to strike at the aggressive and impudent Iraqi regime. The experiences of 7 years of sacred defense have made the Islamic Republic of Iran capable of using all of its resources to confront this aggressive regime and to pave the way for implementing justice and restoring security and peace in the region by punishing the aggressor.

Reportage on Combat Operations Against Iraq

Communique No 2,975

LD301719 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—Several civilians were martyred or wounded and some houses damaged when Iraqi long-range artillery fire shelled the southern port cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan as well as Ziveh and Biuran [placename as received] villages near the northwestern border town of Sardasht, Azarbayjan Bakhtari Province, Tuesday.

Announcing the above, the 2975th Joint Staff Communique reported here Wednesday that fighter bombers of the Islamic Republic's Air Force heavily bombed eco-military centers near the northern Iraqi town of Jalilah at 08:07 GMT Wednesday, inflicting substantial losses on the centers and returning safely to bases.

Iraq's industrial, economic and military centers on the outskirts of several Iraqi cities were shelled by Iran's long-range artillery fire for 24 hours as a result of which the sites suffered heavy losses.

Iran's Muslim combatants continued their defensive operations throughout the battlefields of the Iraqi-imposed war Tuesday, setting ablaze vast parts of enemy fortifications and inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy vehicle, a munitions dump and 10 gun emplacements were destroyed in the southern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian forces Tuesday.

The Naval forces of the Islamic Republic, in addition to discovering and defusing a mine in the international waters of the Persian Gulf, intercepted and searched a cargo ship in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed it to continue voyage after being satisfied there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard it, concluded the communique.

Reprisal Shelling on Iraqi Industries

LD301950 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 30, IRNA—Iraq's industrial units were subjected to heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants of Iran over Tuesday night and Wednesday in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on Iranian industrial units, said Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Wednesday.

The paper-manufacturing factory and steel plant of the Iraqi town of Al-Zubayr, Al-Harithah power station, oil pumping station of Birjisiyah and Basra shipyard sustained substantial damage as a result of heavy long-range artillery fire of the IRGC Ground Forces.

Also Shuwayyib Air Base, Qal'at Dizah and Darihmiya [placename as received] garrisons, Navy headquarters in Basra as well as Basra radio-television station were subjected to the fire of the Muslim combatants over the said period.

Pakistan

Spokesman Reiterates Stance on Nuclear Issue

BK301600 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and its willingness to join efforts aimed at declaring South Asia a nuclear-free zone. The spokesman made this statement while commenting on the U.S. Government's alleged insistence that Pakistan sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and allow inspection of its nuclear installations. He added that there has been no change in Pakistan's policy in this regard.

Answering a question on the extent to which Pakistan is affected by the Gulf situation, the spokesman said that Pakistan has very friendly relations and mutual cooperation with countries in this region. Pakistan's trade with these countries amounts to over 20 percent of its total trade, and hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis are working there.

Commenting on the alleged statement by the Kabul regime's foreign minister that the next round of Geneva proximity talks will [words indistinct] the spokesman expressed the hope that the issue of a (?timetable) for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan will be resolved during this round of talks.

Referring to the issue of the Wular barrage [being constructed by India in Kashmir], the spokesman said that Pakistan and India have agreed to hold official talks on the matter. A 2-day meeting between the delegations of the two countries will begin in Islamabad on Sunday [4 October]. The Government of Pakistan hopes that the issue will be resolved bilaterally and in a friendly manner in accordance with the Sind Basin Treaty.

President To Visit Jordan, Turkey 4 Oct

BK301209 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq is to pay an official visit to Jordan from the 4th and to Turkey from the 6th of next month.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the visit would renew and reinforce mutual understanding and goodwill between Pakistan, Jordan, and Turkey. In Amman, the president will hold talks with King Husayn on current issues of bilateral interest. He will hold similar talks in Ankara with President Kenan Evren.

Sri Lanka

Interim Administrative Council Announced

BK291330 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1312 GMT 29 Sep 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 29 (*Lanka Puwath*)—The Presidential Secretariat in a news release issued this evening announced the names of the members who will form the interim administrative council:

Sivagnanam (former municipal commissioner, Jaffna) administrator-in-council, Mathiyasri, Yogi, Roopan, Sridharan, Ravi, Al-Haj Adam Lebbe Syed Mohammed, Sampanthan, Soosaithasan, Lionel Fernando (secretary to the Ministry of Civil Security), Tissa Jayakody, and another Muslim member will be nominated later.

The LTTE leadership has formerly assured the high commissioner of India that they will fully cooperate in implementing the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement of 29th July, 1987 and all related matters.

They have also assured him that as soon as the members of the interim administrative council are nominated to administer the Northern and the Eastern Provinces until provincial council elections are held in December, they will call off their agitation and fast-unto-death campaigns etc.

Accordingly the LTTE accepts the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka as all the other parties accepting the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement have done.

The terms of reference and functional powers of the interim administrative council will be those envisaged in paragraphs 10.1 and 10.2 of the Bangalore proposals.

The council will operate under the central government and the government agents and all other officers in the Northern and Eastern Provinces will function under the existing institutional arrangements.

Related Legislation Discussed

BK301507 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Excerpt] The Sri Lankan cabinet today approved draft legislation for creating an interim administrative council for the Northern and Eastern Provinces in the island. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that the cabinet discussed the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement and the consequent legislation to implement. An official press release issued in Colombo says the bill will be gazetted immediately and included in the agenda for discussion in the parliament. [passage omitted]

Membership Changed

BK301647 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Sep 87

[Excerpts] The Sri Lankan cabinet today approved the draft legislation for creating an interim administrative council for the northern and eastern provinces in the island. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, launching of the interior administration in the north and east of Sri Lanka appears to have been delayed because of certain changes in the names of members of the advisory council as demanded by the LTTE. An Indian High Commission spokesman claimed in Colombo that the LTTE demanded substitution of two names already announced. The names proposed are Mr Ramesh, Mr Sibananda Sundaram in place of Mr Ravi and Mr Sridharan. The spokesman said President Jayewardene at the request of the Indian high commissioner has agreed to these changes. The spokesman claimed that the LTTE is now demanding that Mr . K. Padmanabhan, the former assistant government agent of Trincomalee be appointed as the administrator of the council in place of Mr Sivagnanam, whose name was announced yesterday. Though Mr Padmanabhan's name figures in the list of three LTTE nominees proposed earlier for selection as administrator, it has not yet been possible to effect the change as the demand is made at the late hour. The Tamil United Liberation Front, TULF, has appealed to all sections of the people in the northern and eastern provinces to extend the cooperation to the interim administrative council. In a statement in Madras, the TULF secretary general, Mr Amirthalingam, said the interim administration would have to address itself to the urgent task of restoring normalcy in the region including rehabilitation and resettling Tamil refugees.

Meanwhile, indefinite curfew has been imposed in Trincomalee as two people wee killed in clashes.

LTTE Demand Rejected

BK010436 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 1 Oct 87

[Text] President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka has rejected the LTTE demand for replacing Mr S.V.K. Sivagnanam with Mr N. Padmanabhan, the former assistant government agent of Trincomalee, as the chief administrator of the Interim Administrative Council for the northern and eastern provinces. Mr Jayewardene, who announced the formation of the Interim Administrative Council on Tuesday [29 September], following an agreement reached between the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, and the LTTE leader, Mr Prabhakaran, however, agreed to the LTTE demand for replacement of two of its other nominees. Accordingly, in place of Mr Ravi and Mr Sridharan, Mr Ramesh and Sibananda Sundaram will be inducted as members of the council.

Lands Minister Interviewed on Resettlement

BK291551 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1517 GMT 29 Sep 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Sept 29 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Exclusive interview with Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Minister Gamini Dissanayake at hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi at 1100 hours today (Sep. 29).

Sri Lankan Minister of Lands, Land Development and Mahaweli Development Gamini Dissanayake in an exclusive interview with *Lanka Puwath* at hotel Taj Palace this morning said that the Government of Sri Lanka is of the view that the whole of Sri Lanka is the home land of all citizens in Sri Lanka.

He said that the Sri Lanka Government will not be pressurised by extremist views expressed by any community.

Following is the full text of the interview.

Q: Mr Minister, the LTTE has alleged that the government is colonising Tamil Areas. What are your comments?

A: No colonisation as alleged has been done after the Indo-Sri Lanka accord. What has taken place is the voluntary return of families who have lived in the Eastern Province as settlers in irrigation schemes.

This settlement is a part of the accord and the Government of Sri Lanka is dutybound to help in this process. No settlement will be done other than in terms of the accord. At the same time the Sri Lankan Government is of the view that the whole of Sri Lanka is the homeland of all citizens of Sri Lanka.

Major irrigation schemes will continue to be the responsibility of the Government of Sri Lanka.

The manner of the implementation of this responsibility has been worked out in great detail. It is a fair solution to all the communities who inhabit Sri Lanka in that future land distribution will be in proportion to the national ethnic proportions.

Sri Lankan Government will abide by these understandings. The Sri Lanka Government will not be pressurised by extremist views expressed by any community.

Q: Mr Minister, do not you think that the stubborn stand of the LTTE demanding more and more concessions is an obstacle towards the speedy implementation of the peace accord?

A: When an issue as tangled and as complicated as the ethnic issue of Sri Lanka is sought to be resolved, we cannot expect human beings to react entirely in rational terms. There is a lot of pride and prejudice involved. We are dealing with human beings and human issues.

Give it a little more time. The main thing is the militants will have to be disarmed or they must feel so confident about the democratic process that they must voluntarily hand over their arms.

Both things have been happening. I think that the framework mentioned in the accord can be maintained.

Q: The LTTE had made allegations that the Indian peace keeping force [IPKF] is biased and it creates problems among the militant groups. What are your comments?

A: The Indian peace keeping force's functions are to maintain peace and to implement certain sections of the accord. They are not there to do politics. In fact, if President Jayewardene decided that they have no role to play, they will leave the country.

IPKF functions are well determined. I do not think they will be influenced by judgements of those who are involved in a political process.

Q: There are large numebr of refugees to be resettled in *their former places in the north and east. What progress* has been made with regard to their resettlement?

A: About 20,000 have already been resettled in the fishing villages of Eastern Province and the major settlements. They have done so voluntarily for that is their right.

The Sri Lanka Government will help in the process. It is doing so now. But a lot more has to be done. There are a large number of Tamil families who have also to be resettled. That will also be done.

Q: Would you be meeting Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi?

A: Yes. I will discuss certain matters regarding the accord. But there is no agenda. I will convey President Jayewardene's wishes to Mr Gandhi. [passage omitted on cricket]